

Message

From: Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/14/2017 2:05:12 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: MS Farm Bureau
Attachments: MS Farm Bureau_Nov2017 Mtg.docx

Jeff,

I wasn't 100% certain if this was the meeting tomorrow that you wanted a summary for, but attached is a single compilation of the information contained within the multiple attachments in the email.

If this isn't the correct meeting, perhaps still useful for feedback purposes before I draft the meeting prep you had in mind!
---Hema.

Hema Subramanian
Special Assistant to the Agriculture Advisor (detail)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Phone (202) 564-5041
subramanian.hema@epa.gov

From: Sands, Jeffrey
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 5:55 PM
To: Subramanian, Hema <Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: MS Farm Bureau

FYI....

From: Ferguson, Justin [<mailto:jferguson@msfb.org>]
Sent: Saturday, November 11, 2017 6:36 AM
To: Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: MS Farm Bureau

Jeff:

Attached are a few items we discussed.

1. The entire list of our attendees.
2. Background on Ted Kendall IV's farm.
3. A picture of Mr. Pruitt, Governor Bryant, and Mr. Kendall.
4. An additional picture that Tate sent me from your office, a few weeks back.
5. Our overall agenda for our conference/fly-in.

Thanks again for all your help. Look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,
Justin

Justin Ferguson
National Affairs Coordinator
Commodity Coordinator for Major Row Crops
Industry Affairs Liaison
Mississippi Farm Bureau ® Federation

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

jferguson@msfb.org

**Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
2017 Washington, DC Member Fly-In Tour
Wednesday, November 15, 2017**

POC: Justin Ferguson, National Affairs Coordinator / National Affairs Coordinator /
Commodity Coordinator-Major Row Crops / Industry Affairs Liaison

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy [[HYPERLINK "mailto:jferguson@msfb.org"](mailto:jferguson@msfb.org)]

Featured Attendee: The Gaddis Farms

MANAGEMENT: Ted H. Kendall III – Chairman
Ted H. Kendall IV –President, Manager
Kendall Garraway – Vice-President, Manager

OWNERSHIP: A family owned Corporation that was started in 1897 and incorporated in 1937.

LAND AREA: In excess of 28,000 acres of land is involved in this operation which consists of a number of farms that lie in a geographical area between Raymond, Bolton, Edwards and The Big Black River in Hinds County, MS.

LAND USES: Cotton – 1500 acres
Soybeans – 2500 acres
Corn – 2500 acres
Hybrid Bermuda Hayfields – 500 acres
Improved Pasture – 8000 acres
Winter Grazing – 1200 acres
Pine Plantations – 5500 acres
Hardwood Timber – 6500 acres

Approximately 75% of The Gaddis Farms acreage is utilized in hunting leases and hunting clubs.

LIVESTOCK:

Brood Herd – Approximately 1250 cows. Breeds used are Angus, Brangus, and Gelbvieh. All raised calves are weaned and placed in the winter grazing operation.

Winter Grazing – All home raised calves plus approximately 1000 purchased calves are placed on ryegrass pastures in the fall and grazed until May or June and then are either sold on the Producers Internet Auction or sent to a feedyard under a retained ownership program.

Retained Ownership – Approximately 500-1000 head are fed in Kansas and Nebraska.

Other info:

- Administrator Pruitt previously met with Mr. Kendall, along with Governor Bryant.
- Delegation is also meeting with Senators Roger Wicker and Thad Cochran; Congressman Trent Kelly, Mike Conaway (House Ag Chair), Bennie Thompson, Gregg Harper, Steven Palazzo; House and Senate Ag Committee Staff; USDA; Embassies of Ireland and Mexico.

2017 Washington DC Member Fly In Attendees

	COUNTY	F NAME	L NAME
1	Alcorn	Reed	Mitchell
2	Bolivar	Anna	Bass
3	Bolivar	B	Bass
4	Bolivar	Chandler	Carvan
5	Bolivar	Donald	Gant
6	Bolivar	Lil	Gant
7	Bolivar	Chalmers	Hobart
8	Bolivar	Eric	Jackson
9	Bolivar	Anthony	Malatesta
10	Bolivar	Bryce	Rocconi
11	Bolivar	Jason	Rocconi
12	Bolivar	Adam	Satterfield
13	Bolivar	Walter	Stubbs
14	Carroll	Jim	Neill
15	Chickasaw	Jason	Hill
16	Choctaw	Matthew	King
17	Clay	Scott	O'Brian
18	Clay	Kay	O'Brian
19	Desoto	Tommy	Swindoll
20	Desoto	Deniese	Swindoll
21	Grenada	David	Hayward
22	Hancock	Louis J	Breaux IV
23	Hancock	EJ	Richards
24	Harrison	Tom	Daniels
25	Harrison	Gloria	Ginn
26	Harrison	David	Ladner
27	Harrison	Garry	Moore
28	Harrison	Renee	Moore
29	Hinds	Ted	Kendall IV
30	Holmes	Terry	Wynne
31	Humphreys	Wanda	Hill
32	Issaquena	Clark	Carter
33	Issaquena	Emily	Carter
34	Jeff Davis	Chance	Hinton
35	Jeff Davis	Katie	Hinton
36	Jeff Davis	Reggie	Magee
37	Jefferson	Mike	McCormick
38	Jones	Roger	Jefcoat
39	Jones	Larry	Jefcoat
40	Jones	Lana	Jefcoat
41	Kemper	Dwight	Jackson
42	Lee	David	Bishop
43	Leflore	John	Bush

	COUNTY	F NAME	L NAME
44	Lincoln	Robert Earl	McGehee
45	Lincoln	Larry	Sasser
46	Lowndes	Tony	Dantzler
47	Marion	Myron	Branch
48	Marion	Kathy	Branch
49	Marion	Donald	Lowery
50	Marion	Patsy	Lowery
51	Neshoba	Jay	Jayroe
52	Newton	Max	Anderson
53	Newton	Pat	Anderson
54	Newton	Lynda	Truesdale
55	Panola	David	Taylor
56	Panola	Lin	Taylor
57	Pearl River	Julie	Brown
58	Pearl River	Peggy	Smith
59	Perry	Dot	Cole
60	Pike	Carl	Fuller
61	Quitman	Bob	Workman
62	Quitman	Lorrie	Workman
63	Rankin	Brad	Martin
64	Rankin	Rebecca	Rogers
65	Scott	Jody	Reyer
66	Scott	Brittany	Reyer
67	Sharkey	Jeffrey	Mitchell
68	Sharkey	Frances	Mitchell
69	Stone	JB	Brown
70	Tallahatchie	Brent	Brasher
71	Tallahatchie	Gabriela	Brasher
72	Tate	Hunter	Taylor
73	Tunica	Richy	Bibb
74	Tunica	Pat	Bibb
75	Tunica	Bill	McLean
76	Walthall	Alton	Harvey
77	Walthall	Sandi	Harvey
78	Washington	Mark	Looney
79	Washington	Rhonda	Looney
80	Wayne	Lee	McCollough
81	Wayne	Dixie	McCollough
82	Webster	David	Hood
83	Webster	Gerry	Hood
84	Webster	Jeffrey	Tabb
85	Webster	Dawn	Tabb
86	Winston	Lowell	Wilson

87	Winston	John Albert	Young
88	Bolivar	Luke	Andrews
89	Bolivar	Morgan	Andrews
90	Leflore	David	Arant, Jr.
91	Leflore	Rebekkah	Arant
92	Jasper	Sam	Blakeney
93	Jasper	Makenzi	Blakeney
94	Issaquena	Jon	Carson
95	Issaquena	Tori	Carson
96	Bolivar	Charles	Danna
97	Bolivar	Kathryn Anne	Danna
98	Lawrence	Evan	Lawrence
99	Lawrence	Carla	Lawrence
100	Lamar	Stephen	Parker
101	Pontotoc	Matthew	Poe
102	Rankin	Brian	Rhodes
103	Perry	Austin	Smith
104	Webster	Billy	Tabb
105	Humphreys	Eric	Tirey
106	Humphreys	Ann Carol	Tirey
107	Staff	Justin	Ferguson
108	Staff	Andy	Whittington
109	Staff	Kevin	Brown
110	Staff	Chris	Shivers
111	Staff	Britton	Hatcher
112	Staff	Samantha	Laird
113	Staff	Andy	Brown
114	Staff	Greg	Gibson
115	Staff	Mark	Morris
116	Staff	Lee	Thorne

Message

From: Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/13/2018 10:09:30 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Biotech Bullets for the Jeff Sands
Attachments: BPPD Biotech bullets for the Administrator 2 9 2018.docx

From: Dinkins, Darlene
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 4:14 PM
To: Subramanian, Hema <Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>
Cc: Keller, Kaitlin <keller.kaitlin@epa.gov>; Mendelsohn, Mike <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Biotech Bullets for the Jeff Sands

Hema,

Nancy has cleared the attached biotech bullets for Jeff's meeting this week. She suggest that you and Jeff consider paring them down a bit based on the focus of the meeting.

Darlene Dinkins
Office of Pesticide Programs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(703) 305-5214

SUBJECT: Biotechnology Opportunities and Challenges Before the Agency

Background

The October 2017 *Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity* discussed biotechnology as an area of leadership for the U.S., which “presents an incredible opportunity for American farmers and rural communities to thrive at the forefront of innovation”. Specifically, the report highlighted how scientific advancements in genome editing and genomic selection help farmers “to increase the supply and quality of crop and livestock commodities using fewer resources and at lower costs of production”.¹

In September 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) indicated in the Federal Government’s *National Strategy for Modernizing the Regulatory System for Biotechnology Products*² that it intended to contribute to modernizing the regulatory system for biotechnology products by clarifying its approach to pesticidal products derived from genome editing, including gene edited crops modified by CRISPR. EPA also committed to helping clarify how the Federal Government will regulate genetically engineered insects such as mosquitoes.

Plants

- EPA currently regulates under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) plant-incorporated protectants (PIPs). PIPs are comprised of the pesticidal substance that is intended to be produced and used in plants and the genetic material necessary for its production in plants, e.g. the Bt gene and the Bt protein in Bt corn.
- EPA has exempted from FIFRA requirements PIPs that naturally occur in plants or are moved through conventional plant breeding, e.g. naturally occurring plant disease resistance traits/genes (40 CFR 174.25).³
- Gene-editing techniques such as CRISPR can create PIPs identical to the exempted PIPs. However, when the conventional breeding PIP exemption was written, CRISPR and other precise gene editing techniques did not exist.
- **Gene-edited PIPs that are the same as naturally occurring PIPs are not currently exempt. To exempt them from EPA regulation, the current exemption would need to be updated/changed through a deregulatory rulemaking.**

Mosquitoes/Insects/Animals

- EPA and FDA have worked together to clarify that FDA considers GE mosquito products used for population control purposes to be pesticides regulated by EPA under FIFRA and not new animal drugs regulated by FDA. In October 2017, FDA published a guidance document⁴ announcing that position.
- **Per the September 2016 commitment, similar clarification should be made for all GE insects. In theory, clarification should also be made for GE mice that researchers are now developing to control invasive mouse populations on islands and other animals used for population control purposes.**

¹ United States Department of Agriculture. (2017, October 21). *Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity*. Retrieved from [[HYPERLINK "https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/rural-prosperity-report.pdf"](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/rural-prosperity-report.pdf)]

² Executive Office of the President of the United States. (2016, September). *National Strategy for Modernizing the Regulatory System for Biotechnology Products*. Retrieved from [[HYPERLINK "https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/biotech_national_strategy_final.pdf"](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/biotech_national_strategy_final.pdf)]

³ Plant-incorporated protectant from sexually compatible plant, § 40 CFR 174.25 (2011).

⁴ 2017. Guidance for Industry #236. Clarification of FDA and EPA Jurisdiction Over Mosquito-Related Products. US Food and Drug Administration.

Oxitec Genetically Engineered Mosquitoes and Wolbachia Mosquitoes (non-GE)

- EPA currently regulates 2 types of modified mosquitoes used to control wild populations of the mosquitoes *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*, two important vectors of human disease.
- In one type of modification, the mosquito is infected with the microorganism, Wolbachia; in the other, the mosquito is engineered.
- Both of these techniques modify males, which do not bite, and result in failure of mosquitoes to successfully reproduce.
- EPA has issued several Experimental Use Permits to allow field testing of the Wolbachia mosquito, and a registration was granted in November 2017 that limits use to a few specific areas of the continental U.S.
- **Oxitec, Ltd in December 2017 submitted an application for a FIFRA experimental use permit for the engineered mosquito, OX513A, to the EPA. OPP is currently reviewing the application, which has a decision due date of July 25, 2018.**
- Oxitec has indicated that they will submit an application for a full registration shortly.

Additional Background

In 2016 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) commissioned a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) to provide an external, independent analysis of the future landscape of biotechnology products with a primary focus on potential new risks and risk assessment frameworks. This report examined opportunities for future biotechnology products, and recommended that the regulatory agencies should inventory and modernize their capacities to address an expected growth of the biotechnology sector.⁵

In accordance with the U.S. federal government's Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology, EPA works with FDA and USDA to provide a network of oversight to ensure products of biotechnology are safe. EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) regulates under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) new substances not regulated as foods, drugs, cosmetics, pesticides, etc. In the biotech arena that means intergeneric microorganisms. EPA's OPP regulates under FIFRA modifications made to mosquitoes, plants, and microorganisms that are used as pesticides. As the technology advances, EPA is facing policy challenges and opportunities, primarily in the area of plants and animals, including mosquitoes/insects and other animals, that are used as pesticides.

⁵ The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, Medicine. (2017). *Preparing for Future Products of Biotechnology*. doi:10.17226/24605. Retrieved from: [HYPERLINK "<https://nas-sites.org/biotech/2017/06/14/report/>"]

Message

From: Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/13/2018 3:01:30 PM
To: Bahadori, Tina [Bahadori.Tina@epa.gov]; Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
CC: Thayer, Kris [thayer.kris@epa.gov]; Lavoie, Emma [Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov]; Cogliano, Vincent [cogliano.vincent@epa.gov]; Tun, Amanda [tun.amanda@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Ag connections -- ammonia risk assessment

Terrific, thank you.

In regard to OLEM/OAR, I was mentioning due to the upcoming EPCRA/CERCLA reporting requirement for ammonia air emissions from animal ag farms, those teams may be interested to hear about this implication. By the way, who are you coordinating with in OW?

Thank you,
---Hema.

Hema Subramanian
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Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Phone (202) 564-5041
subramanian.hema@epa.gov

From: Bahadori, Tina
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 9:58 AM
To: Subramanian, Hema <Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>; Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>
Cc: Thayer, Kris <thayer.kris@epa.gov>; Lavoie, Emma <Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov>; Cogliano, Vincent <cogliano.vincent@epa.gov>; Tun, Amanda <tun.amanda@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Ag connections -- ammonia risk assessment

Hi Hema,
This is primarily a water issue – and on that, we have coordinated with OW already. Amanda Tun on my team will reach out to you shortly and coordinate schedules.

Thanks,
Tina

From: Subramanian, Hema
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 9:53 AM
To: Bahadori, Tina <Bahadori.Tina@epa.gov>; Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>
Cc: Thayer, Kris <thayer.kris@epa.gov>; Lavoie, Emma <Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov>; Cogliano, Vincent <cogliano.vincent@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Ag connections -- ammonia risk assessment

Hello Tina, I'd be happy to help set up a time to meet. This work would certainly be pertinent to hear more about right now. Have you already been coordinating with the OLEM/OAR teams?

Just let me know what timeframe you would prefer--next week?

Thank you,
---Hema.

Hema Subramanian
Acting Special Assistant to the Senior Advisor for Agriculture
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Phone (202) 564-5041
subramanian.hema@epa.gov

From: Bahadori, Tina
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 9:38 AM
To: Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>
Cc: Thayer, Kris <thayer.kris@epa.gov>; Lavoie, Emma <Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov>; Cogliano, Vincent <cogliano.vincent@epa.gov>; Subramanian, Hema <Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Ag connections -- ammonia risk assessment

Of course – we would be glad to do this.
Looking forward to the opportunity to meet you.
Tina

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Hi Tina,

I hope this note finds you well. I appreciate you reaching out and offering to brief the office on your latest efforts regarding ammonia. Hema (Special Assistant in the Ag Advisor's office) and I would love to have the opportunity to learn more. If you and your team could work with her in setting up a time, I would be grateful.

Thanks very much!!

Best,
Jeff

From: Bahadori, Tina
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 10:57 AM
To: Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>
Cc: Thayer, Kris <thayer.kris@epa.gov>; Lavoie, Emma <Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov>; Cogliano, Vincent <cogliano.vincent@epa.gov>
Subject: Ag connections -- ammonia risk assessment

Good morning Jeff,

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Regards,

Tina

=====

Tina Bahadori, Sc.D.
Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment (EPA/ORD/NCEA)
National Program Director, Human Health Risk Assessment (EPA/ORD/HHRA)
RRB Room 71210; Telephone: 202-564-7903; Mobile: Ex. 6

Message

From: Bahadori, Tina [Bahadori.Tina@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/13/2018 2:57:48 PM
To: Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]; Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
CC: Thayer, Kris [thayer.kris@epa.gov]; Lavoie, Emma [Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov]; Cogliano, Vincent [cogliano.vincent@epa.gov]; Tun, Amanda [tun.amanda@epa.gov]
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Hema Subramanian
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Tina Bahadori, Sc.D.
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RRB Room 71210; Telephone: 202-564-7903; Mobile: Ex. 6

Message

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Sent: 2/13/2018 2:52:54 PM
To: Bahadori, Tina [Bahadori.Tina@epa.gov]; Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
CC: Thayer, Kris [thayer.kris@epa.gov]; Lavoie, Emma [Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov]; Cogliano, Vincent [cogliano.vincent@epa.gov]
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Tina Bahadori, Sc.D.
Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment (EPA/ORD/NCEA)
National Program Director, Human Health Risk Assessment (EPA/ORD/HHRA)
RRB Room 71210; Telephone: 202-564-7903; Mobile: Ex. 6

Message

From: Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/28/2018 4:51:53 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: CMS letter requesting updated LCA for corn ethanol
Attachments: 18-000-4762_Baird_LCA for Corn Ethanol.pdf

I have not read through this yet, but FYI, a letter came in requesting an updated LCA for corn ethanol. It was assigned to OAR for response, and we were just cc'ed.

---Hema.

Hema Subramanian
Acting Special Assistant to the Senior Advisor for Agriculture
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Phone (202) 564-5041
subramanian.hema@epa.gov

Fri Feb 23 15:24:05 EST 2018
CMS.OEX@epamail.epa.gov
FW: Letter from state corn growers associations and NCGA
To: "cms.oex@domino.epamail.epa.gov" <cms.oex@domino.epamail.epa.gov>

From: Hope, Brian
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 8:24:04 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik
To: CMS.OEX
Subject: FW: Letter from state corn growers associations and NCGA

From: Tricia Braid [mailto:tbraid@ilcorn.org]
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 1:23 PM
To: Pruitt, Scott <Pruitt.Scott@epa.gov>
Cc: the.secretary@hq.doe.gov; sonny.perdue@osec.usda.gov
Subject: Letter from state corn growers associations and NCGA

Hello, Administrator Pruitt:

Please see the attached letter to you. It is signed by the leaders of 18 state corn organizations and the National Corn Growers Association.

Respectfully,

Tricia Braid

IL Corn Communications Director

14129 Carole Dr.

Bloomington, IL 61705

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

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February 23, 2018

Administrator Scott Pruitt
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

We respectfully request the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopt an updated lifecycle analysis for corn ethanol. EPA's lifecycle analysis was originally established in 2009 and published in the regulatory impact analysis to a 2010 Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) rule; this analysis does not reflect improvements in corn and ethanol production since then. Adopting an updated analysis would help fulfill the Trump Administration's pledge to rely on sound science and transparency. Over the last eight years, our organizations and others appealed to the previous administration and the career experts at EPA to update these numbers to no avail.

EPA's forthcoming Triennial Report to Congress offers a new opportunity for the Agency to correct these outdated estimates and take advantage of recent lifecycle analysis updates completed by other federal agencies and university researchers. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), through Argonne National Laboratory, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have both been working on updating the input data for corn and ethanol production, improving models, vetting the results, and using the latest analytical resources to develop the most accurate lifecycle numbers possible. Many universities such as Purdue, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Iowa State show similar improvements. Most of these recent modeling results have been published in peer-reviewed journals.

While lifecycle analysis for corn ethanol may seem less important now for the administration of the RFS, the lifecycle values of biofuels have become very important in global ethanol export markets. EPA's outdated life cycle estimates may now seriously impact corn ethanol exports to foreign markets such as Japan, Brazil, Europe, and South Korea, which are establishing their own greenhouse gas (GHG) standards and/or evaluating ethanol imports based on EPA's outdated lifecycle numbers. Specifically, in the short term, if these numbers are not updated, the United States risks losing export opportunities to competing sugarcane ethanol from Brazil.

For example, the United States recently had the opportunity to compete for ethanol as a feedstock for ETBE exports to Japan. The U.S. Grains Council (in cooperation with agribusiness groups, ethanol organizations, and with university input) demonstrated the significant improvements in the lifecycle emissions of corn ethanol over the past decade, using both the USDA lifecycle analysis estimates and the DOE Argonne model. Due to the differences in the more recent lifecycle analysis from USDA and the outdated estimates from EPA, the U.S. ethanol industry spent additional resources to educate the Japanese authorities on the discrepancies between the USDA and EPA lifecycle analyses. Ultimately, Japanese authorities

accepted the USDA methodology. Attached to this letter is a table used in Japan's original analysis of corn-based ethanol.

As you may know, Brazil became our largest foreign market for corn ethanol in 2016 and remained our largest market in 2017, importing 446 million gallons. Unfortunately, in a move to limit U.S. access to its market, Brazil has implemented a tariff rate quota (TRQ) for ethanol imports. With the TRQ, a tariff is applied to purchases from the U.S. after a 150 million liter (39.6 million gallon) per quarter quota is met.

The original argument for a tariff was based on Brazil's purported interest in reducing carbon emissions from fuel. Brazilian regulators used the 2010 study from the EPA website to arrive at an estimated duty rate slightly below 20 percent. If Brazil had used figures from the USDA study released in December 2016, the same Brazilian formula results in a tariff of just 2.7 percent. The outdated EPA numbers hold the potential to reduce ethanol export opportunities and negatively impact U.S. jobs and the rural economy.

Outdated data and poor models could cause the U.S. corn and ethanol producers to lose market access. These losses will further the economic crisis for corn growers currently struggling with stagnant demand and low prices. Countries that are establishing carbon standards realize that blending ethanol has major GHG reducing impacts and will move to encourage its usage. GHG criteria are important to work the U.S. ethanol industry is carrying out in Colombia, Japan, the EU, and Canada. We expect even more countries will examine the GHG reducing properties of ethanol over the next few years, but they will not choose U.S. ethanol when they rely on the 2010 EPA lifecycle analysis.

We encourage your agency to adopt either DOE/Argonne's latest published results or USDA's recently reported data. We would also be pleased to work with you and your staff to provide information regarding improvements in corn production to help inform EPA's forthcoming Triennial Report.

Sincerely,

Mike Lefever
Colorado Corn Administrative Committee President

Dave Eckhardt
Colorado Corn Growers Association President

Aron Carlson
Illinois Corn Growers Association President

Paul Jeschke
Illinois Corn Marketing Board Chairman

Sarah Delbecq
Indiana Corn Growers Association President

Mark Recker
Iowa Corn Growers Association President

Dennis McNinch
Kansas Corn Commission Chairman

Ken McCauley
Kansas Corn Growers Association President

Mark Roberts
Kentucky Corn Growers Association

Jason McConnachie
Michigan Corn Growers Association President

Kirby Hettver
Minnesota Corn Growers Association President

Kyle Kirby
Missouri Corn Growers Association President

David Merrell
Nebraska Corn Board Chairman

Dan Wesely
Nebraska Corn Growers Association President

Carson Klosterman
North Dakota Corn Growers Association President

Jed Bower
Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association President

Troy Knecht
South Dakota Corn Growers Association President

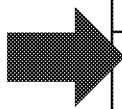
Casey Kelleher
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association President

Kevin Skunes
National Corn Growers Association President

Encl.: Basic Concepts of GHG Emission Reduction Requirement
cc: Secretary Sonny Perdue, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Secretary Rick Perry, U.S. Department of Energy

Basic Concepts of GHG Emission Reduction Requirement

- It is important to establish the GHG emission reduction requirement that is at least targeting CO₂ reduction not weaker than other countries, and that possess sufficient effects from the point of efficient biomass utilization.
- Taking into consideration availability of biofuel meeting the requirement, it is decided to be up from 50% gasoline equivalent to 55% gasoline equivalent.

		Values when the current requirements were established (2011)	At present (January 1, 2018 for EU)
<div> <div>Europe and the U.S.</div>  </div>	Europe (RED)	35%	50% (Plant built before October 5, 2015) 60% (Plant built before October 5, 2015)
	UK (RTFO)	50%	Same as RED
	US (RFS2)	Existing: 20% Next generation: 50-60%	No changes of the requirements but the target volume of advanced biofuel introduction has been increasing
Japan	GHG emission reduction by woodchip biomass generation	42.8 gCO ₂ /MJ (52.4% reduction compared with gasoline)	47.5 gCO ₂ /MJ (56.5% reduction compared with gasoline)
	Available biofuel	Brazil	Brazil U.S. (domestic next generation)

Summary on the Concept of Proposed Standards (Public Notice) for the Next Policy

- The term for the next policy will be 5 years (2018-2022) with the target volume of bioethanol introduction will be 500,000 KL gasoline equivalent each year.
- The new LCA assessment value for GHG emission (standard value) for U.S. corn bioethanol will be newly established.
- The GHG emission reduction requirement will be raised from 50% gasoline equivalent to 55% gasoline equivalent, in order that at least targets CO₂ reduction not weaker than other countries, and that possesses sufficient effects from the point of efficient biomass utilization.
- From the point of view of competition with food crops and self-sufficiency, development of domestic next generation biofuel will be continued.
- The target volume and required policy will be determined in the next minor revision scheduled to be early 2020.

The treatment of biodiesel and other biofuel will continue to be discussed.

Message

From: Bennett, Tate [Bennett.Tate@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/7/2017 5:17:17 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Strategic Plan
Attachments: EPA-HQ-OA-2017-0533-0002.docx

Here is the agency's draft strategic plan for next year.

From: Brennan, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2017 11:10 AM
To: Bennett, Tate <Bennett.Tate@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Strategic Plan

Here it is.

From: Bennett, Tate
Sent: Thursday, December 07, 2017 11:02 AM
To: Brennan, Thomas <Brennan.Thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: Strategic Plan

Hi there- do you mind sending me a copy of the strategic plan?

Elizabeth Tate Bennett
Associate Administrator for Public Engagement & Environmental Education
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-1460
Bennett.Tate@epa.gov

Draft FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan
Public Review Draft

October 2, 2017

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460

Administrator's Message

(Reserved for final)

Introduction

EPA's Mission: To Protect Human Health and the Environment

Goal 1 – Core Mission: Deliver real results to provide Americans with clean air, land, and water.

Goal 2 – Cooperative Federalism: Rebalance the power between Washington and the states to create tangible environmental results for the American people.

Goal 3 – Rule of Law and Process: Administer the law, as Congress intended, to refocus the Agency on its statutory obligations under the law.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed this *FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan* (the *Plan*) to: (1) refocus the Agency back to its core mission; (2) restore power to the states through cooperative federalism; and (3) lead the Agency through improved processes and adhere to the rule of law. The *FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan* sharply refocuses EPA on its role of supporting the primary implementers of environmental programs—states and tribes—by streamlining programs and processes, reducing duplication of effort, and providing greater transparency and listening opportunities, enabling the Agency to focus on its core mission work. Process, the rule of law, and cooperative federalism are necessary for an efficient and effective Agency to provide tangible and real environmental results to the American people.

EPA's senior managers will use this *Plan* routinely as a management tool to guide the Agency's path forward, tracking progress and assessing and addressing risks and challenges that could potentially interfere with EPA's ability to accomplish its goals. The three strategic goals established in the *Plan* are supported by strategic objectives and strategic measures focused on advancing human health and environmental end results over the next four years.¹ These longer-term strategic measures are supported by annual measures included in the annual performance plans and budgets that EPA submits to Congress. Operational measures, which rely heavily on regional, state, tribal, and local partner contributions, support achievement of the annual measures. The strategies and strategic measures in this *Plan* highlight key areas in which the Agency will make the most dramatic changes over the next four years, while the annual performance plans and budgets, and supporting annual and operational measures, address a broader range of the Agency's work. In addition, the Agency will hold quarterly and monthly meetings to help assess progress toward annual and long-term strategic measures.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has established two-year agency priority goals (APGs) for accelerating progress on EPA priorities. APGs reflect the top near-term implementation performance improvement priorities of an agency's leadership. EPA's APGs have been selected from among the suite of strategic measures. These priority goals will be supported by two-year implementation plans and quarterly reporting.

¹ EPA is working to develop targets for the strategic measures, and baseline and universe information to support them.

FY 2018-2019 Agency Priority Goals

- Reduce the number of non-attainment areas.
- Increase the percentage of water infrastructure projects funded through EPA grants, loans, or public-private partnerships that achieve or maintain compliance.
- Make additional brownfields sites ready for anticipated use (RAU) and additional Superfund sites RAU site-wide.
- Complete (1) EPA-initiated Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) risk evaluations for existing chemicals, (2) TSCA risk management actions for existing chemicals, and (3) TSCA pre-manufacture notice final determinations in accordance with the timelines set forth in the statute.
- Increase the amount of non-EPA resources leveraged by projects receiving EPA infrastructure investments.
- Accelerate permitting-related decisions.

The *FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan* is supported by other, more detailed Agency plans in specific areas. For example, EPA's Human Capital Operating Plan details the actions the Agency will execute to achieve its overarching human capital goals, and its Information Technology/Information Management Strategic Plan will guide efforts to support and modernize its technology and data infrastructure. The Agency's workforce and reform efforts will support streamlining efforts to work more efficiently and effectively in the future. The many efforts described in these plans align with and help position the Agency to achieve the strategic goals and objectives presented in this *Plan*.

EPA is also in the process of deploying a Lean management system specifically designed to deliver measurable results that align with this *Plan*. Lean is a set of principles and tools designed to identify and eliminate waste from processes while maximizing customer value and return on taxpayer investment. Under Administrator Scott Pruitt's leadership, EPA will become a Lean organization.

Strategies to achieve EPA's goals and objectives are also informed by gathering evidence related to environmental problems and evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies that the programs use to address them. Examples of recent evidence and evaluation efforts used to develop this *FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan* and a preliminary list of future planned efforts can be found at [Note: Add link when information available].

The GPRA (Government Performance and Results Act) Modernization Act of 2010 directs agencies to consult with the Congress and requires that they solicit and consider the views and suggestions of those entities likely to be interested in or potentially affected by a strategic plan. Consultation with EPA's federal, state, local, and tribal government partners and our many stakeholders is integral to the Agency's strategic planning process. In developing the *FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan*, EPA issued a *Federal Register* notice and used [[HYPERLINK "http://www.regulations.gov"](http://www.regulations.gov)] to encourage and share feedback on the draft *Plan*. The Agency also sent notifications on the availability of the draft *Plan* to leaders of the Agency's Congressional authorizing, appropriations, and oversight committees, and notified all federally-recognized Indian tribes of the opportunity for consultation. These outreach efforts resulted in comments from approximately XXX organizations and individuals.

Goal 1 - Core Mission:
Deliver real results to provide Americans with clean air, land, and water.

Pollution comes in many forms with myriad impacts on human health and the environment. With the goal of clean and safe air, water, and land for all Americans, Congress enacted a range of environmental statutes that spell out EPA's core responsibilities. Our nation has come a long way since EPA was established in 1970. We have made great progress in making rivers and lakes safe for swimming and boating, reducing the smog that clouded city skies, cleaning up lands that were once used as hidden chemical dumps, and providing Americans greater access to information on the safety of the chemicals all around us. Today we can see enormous progress—yet we still have important work to do.

EPA has established priorities for advancing progress over the next four years in each of its core mission areas—land, air, water—as well as chemicals. The Agency will focus on speeding the cleanup of Superfund and brownfields sites, and will use a top ten list of sites to advance progress on Superfund sites of particular concern. We will work with states to more rapidly approve state implementation plans for attaining air quality standards, reducing contaminants that can cause or exacerbate health issues. We will achieve clean and safe water by updating aging infrastructure, both for drinking water and wastewater systems. And EPA's top priority for ensuring the safety of chemicals in the marketplace is the implementation of the new Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, which modernizes the Toxic Substances and Control Act (TSCA) by creating new standards and processes for assessing chemical safety within specific deadlines. These efforts will be supported by strong compliance assurance and enforcement in collaboration with our state and tribal partners, and use of the best available science and research to address current and future environmental hazards, develop new approaches, and improve the foundation for decision making.

The Agency will collaborate more efficiently and effectively with other federal agencies, states, sovereign tribal nations, local governments, communities, and other partners and stakeholders to address existing pollution and prevent future problems. EPA will directly implement federal environmental laws on Indian lands where tribes have not taken on program responsibility. With our partners, we will pay particular attention to vulnerable populations. Children and the elderly, for example, may be at significantly greater risk from elevated exposure or increased susceptibility to the harmful effects of environmental contaminants. Some low-income and minority communities may face greater risks because of proximity to contaminated sites or because fewer resources are available to avoid exposure to pollutants. Much work remains, and together with our partners, we will continue making progress in protecting human health and the environment.

Objective 1.1 - Improve Air Quality:

Work with states to accurately measure air quality and ensure that more Americans are living and working in areas that meet high air quality standards.

Introduction

As part of its mission to protect human health and the environment, EPA is dedicated to improving the quality of the nation's air. From 1970 to 2016, aggregate national emissions of the six criteria air pollutants² were reduced over 70 percent, while gross domestic product grew by over 253 percent. Despite this progress, in 2016, more than 120 million people (about 40 percent of the U.S. population) lived in counties with monitored air at values greater than EPA regulations for at least one criteria pollutant. EPA's work to control emissions of air pollutants is critical to continued progress in reducing public health risks and improving the quality of the environment. Over the next four years, EPA will conduct a wide range of activities that contribute to improving air quality and protecting human health and the environment.

Strategic Measure

- Reduce the number of non-attainment areas.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

EPA works in cooperation with states, tribes, and local governments to design and implement air quality standards and programs. EPA relies on other federal agencies, academia, researchers, industry, other organizations and the public. These partnerships are critical to achieving improvements in air quality and reducing public health risks.

EPA will prioritize key activities to support attainment of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) and implementation of stationary source regulations. The Agency will address its Clean Air Act (CAA) responsibilities by collaborating with and providing technical assistance to states and tribes to develop plans and implement decisions that administer the NAAQS and visibility programs; taking federal oversight actions such as approving state implementation plan/tribal implementation plan (SIP/TIP) submittals consistent with statutory obligations; developing regulations and guidance to implement standards; and addressing transported air pollution. EPA will focus on ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the SIP/TIP process, including the Agency's own review process, with a goal of maximizing timely processing of state/tribal-requested implementation plan actions to help states move more quickly to attainment.

EPA will operate effective nationwide and multi-state programs, such as the acid rain program and the cross-state air pollution rule, which address global, national, and regional air pollutants from the power sector and other large stationary sources. The Agency also will develop and provide data, analysis, and technical tools and assistance to industries, states, communities, and tribes to meet CAA obligations and other statutory requirements.

EPA also develops, implements, and ensures compliance with national emission standards to reduce mobile-source-related air pollution from light-duty cars and trucks, heavy-duty trucks and buses, nonroad

² The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six common air pollutants including carbon monoxide, lead, ground-level ozone, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide.

engines and vehicles, and their fuels—a priority for the Agency to ensure that industry has the certainty it needs while protecting human health and the environment. The Agency evaluates new emission control technology and provides information to state, tribal, and local air quality managers on a variety of transportation programs. EPA will review and approve vehicle and engine emissions certification applications and perform its compliance oversight functions on priority matters where there is evidence to suggest noncompliance. The Agency will also conduct pre-certification confirmatory testing for emissions and fuel economy for passenger cars.

EPA develops and implements national emission standards for stationary and mobile sources and works with state and local air agencies to address air toxics problems in communities. For stationary sources, pursuant to the CAA, EPA develops initial air toxics emissions standards for categories of industrial sources and reviews these standards' risk reduction and technological currency according to timeframes set by the Act. EPA will conduct these reviews to meet CAA requirements and to ensure that the air toxics rules appropriately protect public health.

To support our partners in meeting their CAA obligations, EPA will provide grants and technical assistance to state, local, and tribal air pollution control agencies to manage and implement their individual air quality programs, including funding for air quality monitoring. State and tribal air quality monitoring, which provides critical information for developing clean air plans, for research, and for public awareness, will be a focus of the Administration.

EPA will prioritize efforts to reduce the production, import, and use of ozone depleting substances (ODS), including reviewing and listing alternatives that are safer for the stratospheric ozone layer through implementation of Title VI of the CAA and the Montreal Protocol.

EPA also is responsible for measuring and monitoring ambient radiation and radioactive materials and assessing radioactive contamination in the environment. The Agency supports federal radiological emergency response and recovery operations under the National Response Framework and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan. EPA will design essential training and conduct exercises to improve our nation's radiation response preparedness.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

Emerging measurement and information technologies are shifting the paradigm for air quality data. Traditionally, states, along with EPA, have been the primary resource for collecting, storing, sharing, and communicating air data. Increasingly, air quality information is also available from nontraditional sources, such as satellites or sensors. Additionally, big data companies are becoming involved in storing, analyzing, and presenting publicly available air quality data alongside other datasets. These developments are expected to have profound influence on understanding air quality, as well as determining the most cost-effective ways to improve air quality. EPA partners with states, through efforts such as E-Enterprise, and with other entities in a variety of ways to ensure that the Agency advances appropriate technologies and stays abreast of emerging technologies.

EPA engages in both domestic and international forums to address the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer, a global problem that cannot be solved by domestic action alone. Success relies on joint action.

Lastly, there are several emerging issues and external factors that will affect how EPA protects the public from unnecessary exposure to radiation, including evolving policies on radioactive waste management; uranium extraction and processing technologies; a decrease in available radiation expertise; and new science on radiation health effects. The Agency will focus on continuing education, including formal and

informal training, in the areas of health physics, radiation science, radiation risk communications, and emergency response to fill existing and emerging gaps.

Objective 1.2 - Provide for Clean and Safe Water:

Ensure waters are clean through improved water infrastructure and, in partnership with states and tribes, sustainably manage programs to support drinking water, aquatic ecosystems, and recreational, economic, and subsistence activities.

Introduction

The nation's water resources are the lifeblood of our communities, supporting our economy and way of life. Across most of the country, we enjoy and depend upon reliable sources of clean and safe water. Just a few decades ago, many of the nation's rivers, lakes, and estuaries were grossly polluted, wastewater sources received little or no treatment, and drinking water systems provided very limited treatment to water coming through the tap. Now over 90 percent of the population receives safe drinking water from community water systems regulated by EPA or delegated states, and many formerly impaired waters have been restored and support recreational and public health uses that contribute to healthy economies.

We have made significant progress since enactment of the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act. However, serious water resource and water infrastructure challenges remain. Many communities need to improve and maintain both drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and develop the capacity to comply with new and existing standards. Tens of thousands of homes, primarily in tribal and disadvantaged communities and the territories, lack access to basic sanitation and drinking water.

Over the next four years, EPA will work with states, territories, tribes, and local communities to better safeguard human health; maintain, restore, and improve water quality; and make America's water systems sustainable and secure, supporting new technology and innovation wherever possible.

Strategic Measures

- Reduce the number of community water systems out of compliance with health-based standards.
- Increase the percentage of water infrastructure projects funded through EPA grants, loans, or public-private partnerships that achieve or maintain compliance.
- Reduce the number of square miles of watershed with surface water not meeting standards.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Invest in infrastructure to spur environmental benefits and economic growth

Supporting state and local efforts to modernize the outdated drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure on which the American public depends is a top priority for EPA. The Agency will promote construction of infrastructure in small, rural, and disadvantaged communities. EPA will support the state revolving fund (SRF) and Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) programs that will allow the Agency, states, municipalities, and private entities to finance high-priority infrastructure investments that protect human health and the environment. The revolving nature of the SRFs and the leveraging capacity of WIFIA greatly multiply the federal investment. For the clean water SRF, EPA estimates that every federal dollar contributed thus far has resulted in close to three dollars of investment in water infrastructure. For the drinking water SRF, for every one dollar the federal government invests, the states, in total, have been able to deliver \$1.80 in assistance to drinking water systems. For WIFIA, for

every \$20 million in appropriations, EPA could potentially provide approximately \$1 billion in credit assistance, which could spur an estimated \$2 billion in total infrastructure investment.

Protect Human Health

Sustaining the quality of our water resources is essential to safeguarding human health. More than 300 million people living in the United States rely on the safety of tap water provided by public water systems that are subject to national drinking water standards. EPA will help protect human health and make America's water systems secure by:

- Providing financial assistance to states to assist public water systems in protecting and maintaining drinking water quality;
- Strengthening compliance with drinking water standards to ensure protection of public health by enhancing the technical, managerial, and financial capability of those systems;
- Continuing to protect and restore water resources, including sources of drinking water, from contamination;
- Taking actions to address known and emerging contaminants that endanger human health;
- Supporting states, tribes, territories, and local communities in implementing water programs by providing guidance, training, and information;
- Ensuring the security and preparedness of the nation's drinking water supplies by implementing EPA's national security responsibilities for the water sector; and
- Protecting underground sources of drinking water by providing for the safe injection of fluids underground for storage, disposal, enhanced recovery of oil and gas, or minerals recovery.

Recent challenges in Flint, Michigan and elsewhere have highlighted the need to strengthen EPA's implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure we protect and build upon the enormous public health benefits achieved through the provision of safe drinking water throughout the country. The Agency's highest priorities include reducing exposure to lead in the nation's drinking water systems, ensuring continuous compliance with contaminant limits, responding quickly to emerging concerns, and improving the nation's aging and insufficient drinking water infrastructure to address significant needs. EPA is also collaborating with states and tribes to share more complete data from monitoring at public water systems through the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS). This will allow for better targeting of federal and state funding and technical assistance resources, and improve data quality while increasing public access to drinking water data.

Human health and recreational criteria are the foundation for state and tribal tools to safeguard human health. Over the next four years we will improve our understanding of emerging potential waterborne threats to human health, provide technical assistance and resources to help the states monitor and prevent harmful exposures, and develop new or revised criteria as needed.

Protect and Restore Water Quality

Protecting the nation's waters relies on cooperation among EPA, states, tribes, and local communities and involves a suite of programs to protect and improve water quality in the country's rivers, lakes, wetlands, and streams, as well as in estuarine, coastal, and ocean waters. EPA will foster strong partnerships with other federal agencies, states, tribes, local governments, and other organizations that facilitate achieving water quality goals while supporting robust economic growth. In partnership with states, territories, local governments, and tribes, EPA core water programs will:

- Develop recommended water quality criteria for protecting designated uses of water;

- Assist states in adopting water quality standards that support designated uses;
- Establish pollution reduction targets for impaired waters;
- Improve water quality by financing traditional and nature-based wastewater treatment infrastructure;
- Develop national effluent guidelines that set a technology-based floor;
- Work with partners to protect and restore wetlands and coastal and ocean water resources;
- Prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants;
- Update analytical methods that enable precise analysis; and
- Conduct monitoring and assessment so we know the status of the nation's waters.

EPA will partner with states and tribes to implement the National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS)³ to provide nationally-consistent and scientifically-defensible assessments of America's waters. These surveys will support EPA and its partners in identifying actions to protect and restore water quality and in assessing whether these efforts are improving water quality over time.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

Water quality programs face challenges such as increases in nutrient loadings, nonpoint source⁴ and stormwater runoff, and aging infrastructure. EPA is carefully examining the potential impacts of and solutions to these issues. Many important water quality problems have complex causes that can only be addressed through strategic use of both state and federal authorities. EPA will work closely with states and tribes to ensure that these issues are addressed in a coordinated and effective manner, particularly where water quality issues cross state lines. The Agency will implement the National Aquatic Resource Surveys to support collection of nationally-consistent data to support these efforts.

EPA is working with external partners and stakeholders to address the barriers to and incentives for ways that technology and innovation can accelerate improvements in water infrastructure and protection and restoration of waters. Some key market opportunities for innovative practices and technology to help address current and emerging water resource issues are identified in EPA's Blueprint for Integrating Technology Innovation into the National Water Program.⁵

³ Read more on NARS: [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/national-aquatic-resource-surveys"](https://www.epa.gov/national-aquatic-resource-surveys)]

⁴ Read more about nonpoint source pollution: [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/nps"](https://www.epa.gov/nps)]

⁵ Read more about the technology blueprint: [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/innovation/water-technology-innovation-blueprints"](https://www.epa.gov/innovation/water-technology-innovation-blueprints)]

Objective 1.3 - Revitalize Land and Prevent Contamination:

Provide better leadership and management to properly clean up contaminated sites to revitalize and return the land back to communities.

Introduction

EPA works to improve the health and livelihood of all Americans by cleaning up and returning land to productive use, preventing contamination, and responding to emergencies. Challenging and complex environmental problems persist at many contaminated properties, including contaminated soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater that can cause human health concerns.

One of EPA's top priorities is accelerating progress on Superfund sites. EPA recently convened a Superfund Task Force that identified 42 recommendations to streamline and improve the Superfund process. Over the next four years, these recommendations and other innovative ideas will be considered and applied to Superfund sites with priority given to addressing National Priority List (NPL) sites.⁶

EPA collaborates with other federal agencies, industry, states, tribes, and local communities to enhance the livability and economic vitality of neighborhoods. The Agency works with international, state, tribal, and local governments, and other federal agencies to achieve goals and help communities understand and address risks posed by releases of hazardous substances into the environment. EPA's efforts are guided by scientific data, tools, and research that inform decisions on addressing contaminated properties and preparing for and addressing emerging contaminants.

Strategic Measures

- Make additional Superfund sites ready for anticipated use (RAU) site-wide.
- Make additional brownfields sites 'RAU.
- Make additional Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) corrective action facilities RAU.
- Complete additional leaking underground storage tank (LUST) cleanups that meet risk-based standards for human exposure and groundwater migration.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Cleaning Up Contaminated Sites

Over the next four years, EPA will focus special attention on the Administrator's top ten list of Superfund sites and will implement Superfund Task Force recommendations to accelerate the pace of cleanups and promote reuse while addressing risks to human health and the environment. Cleanup actions can take from a few months for relatively straight-forward soil excavation or capping remedies to several decades for complex, large, area-wide groundwater, sediment, or mining remedies. NPL sites in the investigation stages will be expedited by developing strategies that apply new technologies and innovative approaches. NPL sites at which remedies have already been selected will be prioritized for faster completion and

⁶ Please see the Superfund Task Force Recommendations at [[HYPERLINK](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-07/documents/superfund_task_force_report.pdf) "https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-07/documents/superfund_task_force_report.pdf"]

deletion from the NPL, as will sites that have been on the NPL for five years or longer without significant movement. Finally, the Agency will aim to accelerate cleanup by re-prioritizing some resources to focus on remedial actions, construction completions, ready-for-reuse determinations, and NPL site deletions.

In addition, EPA will work with communities to revitalize their brownfields sites and return them to productive use, advancing environmental and human health protection while stimulating economic development and job creation. EPA will award competitive grants to communities, states, and tribes to assess, clean up, and plan reuse of brownfields properties that are contaminated or perceived to be contaminated. To reduce risks from exposure to waste, consistent with RCRA, EPA or authorized states will oversee and manage cleanups by the owner or operator at 3,779 priority facilities. And EPA will support, along with its state and tribal partners, the cleanup of LUST sites and work to revitalize abandoned facilities. These cleanups protect people from exposure to contaminants, and can improve property values⁷ and provide redevelopment opportunities.

Preparedness and Response

EPA prepares⁸ for the possibility of nationally-significant incidents and provides guidance and technical assistance to state, tribal, and local planning and response organizations to strengthen their preparedness. During an incident, EPA works to prevent, mitigate, or contain the release of chemical, oil, radiological, biological, or hazardous materials. The Agency will work with industry, states, tribes, and local communities to ensure national safety and security for responses. EPA homeland security research fills critical scientific and technological gaps, enhancing the Agency's ability to carry out its mandated national preparedness and emergency response and recovery obligations, and informing disaster response and guidance. EPA develops the tools, methods, and data needed to implement our environmental statutes effectively and support EPA and local emergency responders in characterizing chemical, biological, or radiological (CBR) contamination, assessing exposure and risks to human health, cleaning up impacted urban areas, and improving community resilience.

Preventing Contamination

With its state and tribal partners, EPA works to prevent releases of contamination, allowing the productive use of facilities and land and contributing to communities' economic vitality. In partnership with tribes, the Agency directly provides training, compliance assistance, and inspection support to implement the 2015 underground storage tank (UST) regulations in Indian country. EPA also helps to prevent chemical releases by reviewing approximately 12,500 risk management plans (RMPs) and delivering RMP inspector training for federal and state inspectors. EPA seeks to prevent and prepare for accidental releases from chemical facilities that store hazardous chemicals by requiring chemical facilities that store a certain amount of hazardous chemicals to analyze the potential for accidental releases and possible consequences, develop an accident prevention program, and coordinate with communities to ensure that all are prepared to respond to a release.

EPA will update and improve the efficiency of the RCRA hazardous waste regulations to meet the needs of today's business and industry to ensure protective standards for managing hazardous waste. To prevent future environmental contamination and to protect the health of the estimated 20 million people living

⁷ A 2016 study found that high profile UST releases decrease nearby property values by 4% - 6%. Once cleanup is completed, nearby property values rebound by a similar margin. (Guignet, D; Martinez-Cruz, A 2016. Working Paper: The Impacts of Underground Petroleum Release on a Homeowner's Decision to Sell: A Difference-in-Difference Approach. NCEE Working Paper Series) Available at: [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/environmental-economics/working-paper-impacts-underground-petroleum-releases-homeowners-decision"](https://www.epa.gov/environmental-economics/working-paper-impacts-underground-petroleum-releases-homeowners-decision)]

⁸ This work will be done consistent with the government-wide National Response Framework and the National Disaster Recovery Framework.

within a mile of a hazardous waste management facility,⁹ EPA will support states to issue, update, or maintain RCRA permits for the approximately 20,000 hazardous waste units (such as incinerators and landfills) at these facilities. EPA also will issue polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) cleanup, storage, and disposal approvals, since this work cannot be delegated to states or tribes.

EPA will improve and modernize hazardous waste transportation and tracking by implementing the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest Establishment Act, enacted on October 5, 2012. The fee-based e-Manifest system will provide better knowledge of waste generation and final disposition, enhanced access to manifest information, and greater transparency for the public about hazardous waste shipments, and will reduce the burden associated with paper manifests by between 300,000 and 700,000 hours.¹⁰

As authorized in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016, EPA will help states develop plans, work to approve state permit programs for coal ash disposal, coordinate closely with the states on guidance for evaluating state permit programs, and implement a coal ash permit program in Indian country.

Over the next four years, EPA will provide technical assistance, assets, and outreach to industry, states, and local communities as part of its effort to ensure national safety and security for inland oil incidents. There are approximately 580,000 spill prevention, control, and countermeasure facilities, including a high-risk subset of 4,600 facility response plan facilities required to ensure that resources will be available to respond in the event of a discharge.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

A number of factors may delay cleanup timelines. For example, new scientific information (such as new toxicity information or a new analytical method) can call previous determinations into question. In general, cleanup standards have become more stringent over the years, and discovery of new pathways and emerging contaminants (such as vapor intrusion and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances [PFAS]) have made remediation of remaining Superfund sites more challenging. Many of the Superfund sites remaining on the National Priorities List—including sediment, mining, and large groundwater sites—are large, contain multiple areas of contamination, and require more complex remediation efforts. Discovery of new sites, newly detected contamination, or emerging contaminants can also impact cleanup schedules.

Several external factors and emerging issues may affect the overall success of EPA's waste management and chemical facility risk programs. Rapidly changing technology, emerging new waste streams, and aging infrastructure present challenges, as does the complexity of issues and consideration of specific solutions for varying waste streams and situations.

The Agency recognizes that our state, tribal, local, and regional government partners face challenges in fully characterizing environmental outcomes associated with land. Over the next four years, EPA will emphasize the importance of engaging stakeholders at all levels and from all perspectives in making cleanup and land revitalization decisions.

⁹ U.S. EPA, Office of Land and Emergency Management Estimate. 2014. Data collected includes: (1) site information as of the end of FY 2011 from RCRAInfo; and (2) census data from the 2007-2011 American Community Survey.

¹⁰ From a 2009 programmatic estimate, cited in [[HYPERLINK "http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-02-07/pdf/2014-01352.pdf."](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-02-07/pdf/2014-01352.pdf)] 40 CFR § 260, 262, 263, 264, 265, and 271.

Objective 1.4 - Ensure Safety of Chemicals in the Marketplace:

Effectively implement the Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, to ensure new and existing chemicals and pesticides are reviewed for their potential risks to human health and the environment.

Introduction

Chemicals and pesticides released into the environment as a result of their manufacture, processing, use, or disposal can threaten human health and the environment. EPA gathers and assesses information about the risks associated with chemicals and pesticides and implements risk management strategies when needed. EPA's research efforts will help advance the Agency's ability to assess chemicals more rapidly and accurately.

In 2016, TSCA was amended by the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. The amendments give EPA significant new as well as continuing responsibilities for reviewing chemicals in or entering commerce to prevent unreasonable risks to human health and the environment, including unreasonable risks to potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulations. Proper implementation, as Congress intended, of the TSCA amendments is one of EPA's top priorities.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) is the primary federal law governing oversight of pesticide manufacture, distribution, and use in the United States. FIFRA requires EPA to register pesticides based on a finding that they will not cause unreasonable adverse effects on people and the environment, taking into account the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of the use of the pesticide. Each time the law has been amended, Congress has strengthened FIFRA's safety standards while continuing to require consideration of pesticide benefits.

In addition to FIFRA, the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) governs the maximum allowable level of pesticides in and on food grown and sold in the United States. The legal level of a pesticide residue on a food or food item is referred to as a tolerance. FFDCA requires that the establishment, modification, or revocation of tolerances be based on a finding of a "reasonable certainty of no harm." When evaluating the establishment, modification, or revocation of a tolerance, EPA tries to harmonize the tolerance with the maximum residue levels (MRLs) set by other countries to enhance the trade of agricultural commodities.

Strategic Measures

- Complete EPA-initiated TSCA risk evaluations for existing chemicals in accordance with the timelines set forth in the statute.
- Complete TSCA risk management actions for existing chemicals in accordance with the timelines set forth in the statute.
- Complete TSCA pre-manufacture notice final determinations in accordance with the timelines set forth in the statute.
- Complete all cases of FIFRA-mandated decisions for pesticides registration review program.

- Improve the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) registration decision time frames for new pesticides.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Chemicals

Over the next four years, EPA will focus on meeting the statutory requirements and mandatory deadlines of the amended TSCA and ensuring that the reviews are efficient, effective, and transparent to EPA's stakeholders.

Under the chemical data reporting (CDR) rule, EPA collects basic exposure-related information from manufacturers (including importers) on the types, quantities, and uses of chemical substances produced domestically or imported into the United States. When TSCA was enacted in 1976, there were approximately 60,000 existing chemicals. The amended TSCA provides a framework for making progress in understanding and managing the risks associated with priority existing chemicals to prevent unreasonable risk posed by their use. The Act requires EPA to identify high- and low-priority existing chemicals and evaluate high-priority chemicals against a new risk-based safety standard. By December 2019, EPA must complete risk evaluations for the first ten high-priority chemicals, ramp up the risk evaluation process so that 20 high-priority chemicals are under evaluation at all times, and identify 20 low-priority chemicals which will not undergo further evaluation.¹¹ Chemical risk evaluations of existing chemicals must be completed within three years.¹² Stakeholder engagement is a vital part of the process—it helps inform EPA's prioritization of chemicals for assessment and determinations of chemical safety as a result of the assessments.

The Agency has two years to address unreasonable risks identified as warranted for action by the findings of the chemical risk evaluations.¹³ Risk management actions may include prohibiting, restricting, or modifying the manufacture, processing, distribution in commerce or commercial use, modifying the labeling, recordkeeping, and other restrictions.

For new chemicals, EPA assesses the potential risks for approximately 1,000 new chemicals or new chemical uses submitted by industry each year, and establishes risk reduction/management techniques prior to their entry into the marketplace as necessary.¹⁴ The amended TSCA has new requirements for positive determinations of chemical safety, which resulted in changes to EPA's assessment process for new chemicals. EPA reviews and takes action on new chemical notices submitted by industry, including pre-manufacture notices (PMNs), to ensure that the chemicals are not likely to pose unreasonable risk upon their entry into U.S. commerce. EPA has 90 days to make an affirmative determination of safety based on whether the chemical substance will present, may present, or is not likely to present an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment, or that the available information is insufficient to enable the Agency to make any of the above determinations. Under the TSCA amendments, if EPA makes an "insufficient information" determination, the Agency will work with the submitter to conduct testing needed to make a determination or will impose restrictions on the substance that prevent exposure from occurring.

¹¹ To initiate new risk evaluations promptly, EPA will begin the chemical substance prioritization process 9-12 months prior to designating which chemical evaluations it will start.

¹² TSCA section 6(b)(4)(G) requires risk evaluations be completed within 3 years of initiation but allows for an extension to this deadline "for not more than 6 months."

¹³ TSCA section 6(c)(1) requires final regulatory action within 2 years of publication of the final risk evaluation but allows for an extension to this deadline "for not more than 2 years."

¹⁴ Including nanoscale materials and products of biotechnology

EPA will protect legitimate claims of confidentiality of the identity of chemicals. The Agency will increase transparency of chemical data by reviewing within 90 days all chemical identity confidential business information (CBI) claims for certain types of submissions and for 25 percent of most other CBI claims. As of July 17, 2017, EPA has received more than 12,000 CBI claims, of which 4,096 were determined to need review under TSCA's new requirements.

The Agency uses a variety of tools and approaches to assess, prevent, and reduce chemical releases and exposures, and empowers stakeholders by ensuring access to chemical data and other information and expertise. EPA annually publishes the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), a public database that contains release and other waste management information (e.g., recycling) and pollution prevention data on over 650 toxic chemicals from approximately 20,000 industrial and federal facilities.

Pesticides

EPA is responsible for licensing (registering) and periodically reevaluating (registration review) pesticides to protect consumers, pesticide users, workers who may be exposed to pesticides, children, and other sensitive populations, while considering the benefits associated with the use of the pesticide. EPA seeks public input on all pesticide reevaluations; all new active ingredients; first food uses; and the establishment, modification, or revocation of tolerances. For example, the rules governing the registration review program (40 CFR 155) typically provide for three distinct comment periods at various stages of the review process. In making pesticide decisions, the Agency often seeks input from stakeholders to address specific information, such as real-world use patterns and benefits to the user community.

EPA works with other federal, state, and tribal agencies, trade organizations, industry, and non-governmental organizations to ensure the effective and safe use of pesticides. EPA also has long provided financial support and expertise to tribes and states so that they can provide training, education, and outreach to pesticide applicators about the safe, proper, and legal use of pesticides. States and tribes work with farmers, businesses, and public agencies to protect human health and the environment and serve as a critical part of job training and business growth in rural areas.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

The amended TSCA provides EPA the authority to collect user fees to defray up to 25 percent of the Agency's costs to administer TSCA Sections 4, 5, 6, and 14. While EPA has the authority to set and collect the fees, it has no control over how much revenue the fees will generate. That will be determined in large part by how the fee-paying community responds to the new fees in terms of their number of fee-related submissions or requests.

New pests and disease vectors carried by pests create challenges for managing pesticides. EPA works closely with public health officials, researchers, and agricultural experts to identify emerging pests, and with industry to expeditiously register pesticides that address issues while ensuring pesticide safety. Assessing and appropriately addressing risks is complex. The Agency must determine safe, effective methods of pesticide use, weighing differing risks for humans and ecosystems. For example, one pesticide may have lower risks for humans than do other pesticides, but have increased risks for pollinators or endangered species. Similarly, a pesticide may have risks for humans, but may be appropriate to fight mosquitos that carry diseases that also pose risks to humans.

EPA continues its trust responsibility by conducting education and outreach with tribes. One challenge is ensuring that the flow of information on the safe use of pesticides reaches more than 500 federally-recognized tribes across the country, and comes in forms that result in protective actions on the ground.

Goal 2 – Cooperative Federalism:

Rebalance the power between Washington and the states to create tangible environmental results for the American people.

The idea that environmental protection is a shared responsibility between the states, tribes, and federal government is embedded in our environmental laws, which in many cases provide states and tribes the opportunity and responsibility for implementing environmental protection programs. More than 45 years after the creation of EPA and the enactment of a broad set of federal environmental protection laws, most states, and to a lesser extent territories and tribes, are authorized to implement environmental programs within their jurisdictions in lieu of EPA-administered federal programs. Specifically, states have assumed more than 96 percent of the delegable authorities under federal law.¹⁵ There are, however, some programs that by statute may not be delegated to the states. Further, as a part of its trust responsibilities, EPA maintains responsibility for implementing environmental programs in much of Indian country. Recognizing these evolving responsibilities, EPA will adapt its practices to reduce duplication of effort with authorized states and tailor its oversight of delegated programs.

Cooperative federalism—the relationship between states and EPA—is not just about who makes decisions, but about how decisions are made and a sense of shared accountability to provide positive environmental results. EPA understands that improvements to protecting human health and the environment cannot be achieved by any actor operating alone, but only when the states and EPA, in conjunction with affected communities, work together in a spirit of trust, collaboration, and partnership. Effective environmental protection is best achieved when EPA and its state partners work from a foundation of transparency, collaboration—including public participation—and a spirit of shared accountability for the outcomes of this joint work. This foundation involves active platforms for public participation, including building the capacity of the most vulnerable community stakeholders to provide input. With these public participation opportunities, the beneficiaries of environmental protection, the American people, will be able to more meaningfully engage through their communities, their local governments, and their state governments. Including the public's voice, particularly the voices of the most vulnerable to environmental and public health challenges among us, in EPA's policy, regulatory, and assistance work is essential to meeting their needs as the Agency implements its statutory responsibilities.

EPA also recognizes that meeting the needs of states, local governments, and communities, and achieving environmental improvements cannot be done in isolation from economic growth. Opportunities for prosperous economic growth and clean air, water, and land are lost without effective infrastructure investments that align with community needs, especially infrastructure investments that repair existing systems, support revitalization of existing communities and buildings, take advantage of existing roads, and lead to the cleanup and redevelopment of previously-used sites and buildings. Currently, there is a gap between infrastructure funding demands and available resources. EPA will play a role in closing this gap by optimizing and aligning its relevant programs to catalyze other resources to close this gap, support beneficial infrastructure investments, and meet community needs for thriving economies and improved environmental and human health outcomes.

¹⁵ Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Paper, “[[HYPERLINK "https://www.ecos.org/news-and-updates/cooperative-federalism-2-0/"](https://www.ecos.org/news-and-updates/cooperative-federalism-2-0/)],” June 2017

Objective 2.1 - Enhance Shared Accountability:

Improve environmental protection through joint governance and compliance assistance among state, tribal, local, and federal partners.

Introduction

In the spirit of cooperative federalism, EPA and its partners have made enormous progress in protecting air, water, and land resources. EPA recognizes that states vary in the environmental challenges that they face due to variations in geography, population density, and other factors. The unique relationship among EPA and its co-regulators is the foundation of the nation's environmental protection system—each organization fulfills a critical role based on its expertise, abilities, and responsibilities in protecting and improving human health and the environment.

EPA recognizes the advances states and tribes have made in implementing environmental laws and programs. This Administration will undertake a series of initiatives to rethink and assess where we are and where we want to be with respect to joint governance. These initiatives will clarify the Agency's statutory roles and responsibilities and tailor state oversight to maximize our return on investment and reduce burden on states, while assuring continued progress in meeting environmental program requirements as established by Congress.

In addition, EPA—with its state, tribal, and local partners—ensures consistent and fair enforcement of federal environmental laws and regulations. The Agency uses a full set of compliance assurance tools, such as compliance assistance and monitoring, electronic reporting, traditional enforcement, grants to states and tribes, and tribal capacity building, to work jointly with its co-regulators to protect human health and the environment. EPA will build on progress achieved to date with E-Enterprise for the Environment, which uses a cooperative federalism model under which states, tribes, territories, and EPA collaborate to develop and improve compliance assurance tools.

EPA directly implements the majority of federal environmental programs in Indian country. The Agency actively works with tribes to develop their capacity to administer environmental programs and to enable tribes that choose to implement federal environmental laws and programs for their lands.

Strategic Measures

- Increase the number of grant commitments achieved by states, tribes, and local communities.
- Increase the use of alternate joint governance approaches to address state, tribal, and local community reviews.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Joint Governance

To develop a future model of joint governance that takes into account the progress states have made in protecting human health and the environment, the Agency will undertake an analysis of EPA's statutory roles and responsibilities to determine what we have to do and assess what we want to do in light of priorities. As part of this process, the Agency will pilot new approaches to tailoring state transactional oversight (e.g., permits) where we have the legal flexibility to do so and streamlining those processes by which EPA reviews and approves state actions.

The National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS) has long served as a model for advancing cooperative federalism by providing the flexibility needed to address the unique needs of individual states and tribes to achieve the best environmental results. A performance-based approach for organizing working relationships with states and many tribes, NEPPS provides specific benefits, such as greater flexibility to assess environmental conditions, set joint priorities, and strategically leverage resources, thus improving cooperative federalism, joint governance, and shared accountability. EPA will work with states and tribes to strengthen cooperative federalism principles through NEPPS.

As a starting point the EPA is initiating a review of the use of Performance Partnership Grants (PPGs), an important tool in NEPPS. PPGs are a financial tool that allows states and tribes to combine separate “streams” of categorical grant funding, from across 20 eligible categorical grants, into one multi-program grant with a single budget. The goal of the review is to understand PPG utilization and outline a course of action addressing the challenges, leveraging lessons learned and progress achieved over the last 22 years. The intent is to provide states the flexibility to maximize human health and environmental protection achieved by the funds; further enhance the federal, state, and/or tribal partnership; and promote the goals of NEPPS.

EPA will respect the important role governors play in cooperative federalism and will seek their views and perspectives on compliance assistance and other opportunities to improve the EPA-state partnership. In addition, the Agency will work to strengthen intergovernmental consultation methods to engage stakeholders and hear diverse views on the impacts of prospective regulations.

Local governments also have a unique relationship with EPA as partners and often as innovative problem solvers. EPA works with local governments to build stronger and more robust partnerships and bring local concerns forward into Agency decision making. As part of these efforts, EPA seeks advice from the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), a chartered policy committee comprising elected and appointed local officials, on the impacts of the Agency’s regulations and policies on local governments.

Consistent with the 2011 EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian tribes, EPA will build tribal capacity to implement federal programs—through delegations, authorizations, and primacy designations—and enable tribes to meaningfully participate in the Agency’s policy making, standard setting, and direct implementation activities under federal environmental statutes. EPA will work with individual tribes on a government-to-government basis to develop and implement an EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP), a joint planning document for achieving stronger environmental and human health protection in Indian country. ETEPs identify tribal, EPA, and shared priorities, and the roles and responsibilities for addressing those priorities.

EPA will focus its direct implementation efforts on areas of high need for human health or environmental protection, including programs identified in the ETEP for which the tribe does not currently anticipate seeking delegation, authorization, or primacy. In carrying out its direct implementation activities, EPA will work closely with the tribe to bolster tribal capacity for subsequent tribal program implementation. EPA will encourage tribes to participate in policy making and to assume appropriate partial roles in the implementation of programs as opportunities are available.

Compliance Assurance

Over the next four years, the Agency will enhance the compliance assurance tool box in collaboration with its state, tribal, local, federal, and industry partners. For example, the E-Enterprise Web Portal will allow the states, tribes, regulated community, and EPA to transact business, such as permitting and reporting, and provide easy access to needed compliance assistance information. EPA will expand its compliance assistance work by continuing to partner with third-party organizations and federal agencies to support the 17 existing web-based, sector-specific compliance assistance centers and developing new centers. In general, an expanded and modernized compliance assurance tool box will enhance our ability to tailor compliance assurance approaches to the differing needs and challenges among states and regulated entities.

A key component of EPA's overall compliance assurance program is compliance monitoring. Compliance monitoring allows the regulatory agency to detect noncompliance and promote compliance with the nation's environmental laws. EPA, state, and tribal inspectors often provide regulated entities with compliance assistance during the inspection process. On a national level, EPA works closely with individual states, tribes, and state and tribal associations to develop, modernize, and implement national compliance monitoring strategies to ensure a level playing field for regulated entities across the country. The Agency principally focuses compliance monitoring activities, such as field inspections, electronic reporting, and data analysis tools, on those programs that are not delegated to states and tribes, and provides monitoring, program evaluations, and capacity building to support and complement authorized state, tribal, and local government programs. The Agency will work with its state and tribal partners to enhance compliance monitoring tools and increase the use of Lean practices. Through E-Enterprise for the Environment, EPA, states, tribes, and territories will collaborate to develop smart mobile tools to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of state, tribal, and EPA inspectors, and support advanced monitoring technology.

International Partnerships

To achieve the Agency's domestic environmental and human health objectives, the EPA will work with international partners to address international sources of pollution, as well as the impacts of pollution from the United States on other countries and the global environment. Pollution impacts air, water, food crops, and food chains, and can accumulate in foods such as fish. EPA efforts will include working with international partners to strengthen environmental laws and governance to more closely align with U.S. standards and practices and to help level the playing field for U.S. industry.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

Advances in the field of information technology and social science research may offer innovative ways to promote compliance. EPA is partnering with states to help prepare for and use these technologies and research to carry out our statutory obligations. EPA also will work closely with the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), state program associations, and individual states, tribes, and territories to implement the Administrator's vision for cooperative federalism. In partnership with ECOS, EPA plans to develop principles and best practices for enhancing collaboration among EPA and states on compliance assurance work.

Objective 2.2 - Increase Transparency and Public Participation:

Listen to and collaborate with impacted stakeholders and provide effective platforms for public participation and meaningful engagement.

Introduction

EPA will strengthen its community-driven approach, which emphasizes public participation to better partner with states, tribes, and communities and to maximize the support and resources of the entire Agency to create tangible environmental results. The Agency will deploy its collective resources and expertise to collaborate with states and communities and support locally-led, community-driven solutions to improved environmental protection and economic growth. Increased transparency, the facilitation of public participation, and an emphasis on cooperation and collaboration will provide a more comprehensive understanding of community needs.

The Agency also will coordinate better across its programs and with federal partners to ensure mutual efforts are aligned, including consideration of vulnerable groups and communities in decisions, and will reflect community needs in its actions and investments, recognizing that the needs of rural communities may not be the same as urban areas. Increasing transparency and public participation in EPA's work with other agencies will enhance the Agency's ability to partner with states, tribes, and local governments and increase responsiveness to the needs of their most vulnerable communities. EPA will serve as a convener and leverage resources with new and existing partners to deliver services more efficiently and effectively. The Agency also will engage regulated entities to identify reforms to more efficiently and effectively meet the nation's environmental goals.

Strategic Measures

- Increase the amount of non-EPA resources leveraged by projects receiving EPA infrastructure investments.
- Reduce the backlog and meet statutory deadlines for responding to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and appeals.
- Eliminate unnecessary or duplicative reporting burdens to the regulated community.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Over the next four years, EPA will meet community needs through public participation, building community capacity through grants, technical assistance, partnering, and meaningful engagement. The Agency will leverage recommendations provided by federal advisory committees, such as the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), LGAC, and Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC), and focus on partnerships representing vulnerable populations, such as youth, the elderly, and school groups. Specifically, the Agency will engage with the focus communities identified by EPA regions to understand each community's goals and identify its environmental priorities and needs, recognizing that rural communities and more urban areas may have different priorities.

Given that investment in infrastructure is necessary for economic growth and environmental protection and that EPA investments are catalytic to both, EPA's efforts will be used to support private and public investment in economic revitalization and improved environmental outcomes across the country. This requires that EPA reimagine its infrastructure and community assistance programs (e.g., the clean water

SRF, drinking water SRF, Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, environmental justice, community revitalization, and brownfields area-wide planning grant programs) to better align EPA investments with each other and with other federal investments in pursuit of economic revitalization and improved environmental outcomes. At the same time, EPA will ensure that it is serving disadvantaged communities, leveraging private investment to improve the economy, and protecting human health and the environment.

EPA will work in a focused manner to make infrastructure and public health protection investments in communities, and with or through partners, such as states and tribes. To further integrate and implement community environmental considerations within EPA programs, the Agency will create tools to facilitate incorporation of community understanding, needs, and concerns across program activities and advance more systematic incorporation of existing tools and needs, such as use of the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJSCREEN) and EnviroAtlas. EPA will develop a cross-Agency communities team to lead regional involvement in and resourcing of community-based environmental work through a fully-integrated resource platform.

The Agency will work to coordinate across the federal government, with EPA regions partnering with federal agencies in focus communities to deliver services more efficiently and effectively. Such partnerships will leverage resources and expertise from across EPA and a range of outside partners to advance economic revitalization through the environmental and health goals of communities. The Agency will also continue leadership of and involvement in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Community Solutions Taskforce to better access and leverage resources from across federal agencies, and will strengthen coordination with the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice to better integrate EPA priorities and support and engage communities. In addition, EPA will support and align its work with the activities and priorities of the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children.

EPA will work on the E-Enterprise Web Portal's Assistance Gateway, which provides tools and resources for communities to facilitate two-way communication between the public and environmental agencies. The Agency will determine how EPA, states, and tribes can most effectively harness and benefit from the recent, rapid development of environmental monitoring technologies that are smaller, more portable, and less expensive than traditional methods. EPA will support the E-Enterprise joint governance structure to enhance collaboration and communication with communities. The Agency will seek to increase the number and type of public participation platforms it has to ensure that the public can meaningfully participate in all of EPA's work—including policy making, regulatory development, outreach, education, and community engagement.

EPA will also focus on reducing the FOIA backlog the Agency has built up over the years, and enhance the FOIA process. The complexity and volume of electronic documents required to be searched, collected, and reviewed has increased over time. The Agency will ensure that it can support the timely searching and collection of electronically-stored information for purposes of responding to FOIA requests and other information needs in a cost-effective, sustainable manner. This should not only help the Agency provide the public information requested, but also reduce the fees and lawsuits the Agency incurs from missing FOIA response deadlines.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

Resources are critical to the expansion of technical assistance directed at communities and state, tribal, and local government partners that support community-focused engagement and collaboration. Staff must be available for a wide variety of implementation activities—e.g., direct community engagement and support, intra- and inter-agency coordination, and partnering effectively with states and tribes.

In addition, the challenges of coordinating across offices within EPA and with other federal agencies can inhibit the identification and delivery of creative solutions and services that can lead to tangible results for communities and a more effective leveraging of government resources. EPA recognizes the need to communicate successes and achievements related to this work, both to market its effectiveness and to teach new partners and practitioners how to replicate successful models and approaches.

Goal 3: Rule of Law and Process
Administer the law, as Congress intended, to refocus the Agency on its statutory obligations under the law.

EPA will seek to reinvigorate the rule of law and process as it administers the environmental laws as Congress intended, and to refocus the agency on its basic statutory obligations. To accomplish this, EPA will work cooperatively with states and tribes to ensure compliance with the law, as well as to create consistency and certainty for the regulated community.

Compliance with the law is not just about enforcement—it is about ensuring consistency and certainty for the regulated community so it has a complete understanding of the impact of proposed actions on human health, the environment, and the economy, and a clear path and timeline to achieve that compliance. Policies and rules will reflect common sense, consistent with EPA's statutory authorities, and the public will benefit from greater regulatory and economic certainty. EPA will enforce the rule of law in a timely manner and take action against those that violate environmental laws to the detriment of human health or the environment.

One of EPA's highest priorities must be to create consistency and certainty for the regulated community. Consistency in how the laws and regulations are applied across the country is part of that process, and EPA will undertake a variety of efforts to ensure that consistency in application is evaluated and addressed. It is as important to apply rules and policies consistently as it is to create certainty by meeting the statutory deadlines that are required for EPA's actions. The rule of law must also be built on the application of robust science that is conducted to help the Agency meet its mission and support the states in achieving their environmental goals. Research, in conjunction with user friendly applications needed to apply the science to real-world problems, will help move EPA and the states forward in making timely decisions based on sound science.

Carrying out this goal requires that EPA improve the efficiency of its internal business and administrative operations. First, EPA's business operations, specifically the vast permitting processes established by the different environmental statutes, are key to ensuring economic growth and human health and environmental protection. Over the next four years, EPA will modernize its permitting practices to increase the timeliness of reviews and decisions, while working more collaboratively, transparently, and cost effectively to achieve the Agency's mission. The second part of improving internal operations includes reducing EPA's overhead and creating more efficient and effective administrative processes (e.g., acquisition) that allow EPA to accomplish its core mission work.

Objective 3.1 - Compliance with the Law:

Enforce environmental laws to correct noncompliance and promote cleanup of contaminated sites.

Introduction

For decades, the protections mandated by federal environmental laws have been essential to the growth of American prosperity. Noncompliance with those laws diminishes shared prosperity and unfairly tilts the field of economic competition in favor of those that skirt the law. To carry out its mission to protect human health and the environment, EPA, in collaboration with state and tribal partners, relies on a strong national compliance assurance and cleanup enforcement program.

EPA's enforcement priorities remain focused on cleaning up hazardous waste sites and addressing the most significant violations consistent with EPA's statutory authorities. The overwhelming majority of EPA's enforcement actions are taken in programs that are: (1) not delegable to the state or a federally-recognized tribe; (2) in states or tribes that have not sought authorization to implement a delegable program; or (3) in states or tribes that do not have the resources or expertise, or that seek assistance from the Agency—and all of these actions are taken in coordination with the states or tribes. In states with authorized programs, EPA and states share enforcement responsibility, with primary enforcement responsibility residing with the state.¹⁶ EPA is responsible for addressing violations that occur in Indian country in the absence of an approved program.

Even in states or tribes authorized to implement a program, EPA serves a critical role in addressing serious national noncompliance problems, such as those affecting multiple states. EPA also may assist a state or tribe in remediating noncompliance problems when it is unable to address the problem because it lacks the capability or resources, such as in actions against federal or state agencies. And for some serious violations, the Agency and states or tribes may decide that the best approach is a joint enforcement action. Further, EPA will take immediate action when there is an environmental emergency, such as an oil spill or chemical accident. Through the State Review Framework (SRF), EPA periodically reviews authorized state and tribal compliance monitoring and enforcement programs, using criteria agreed upon by states and tribes, to evaluate performance against national compliance monitoring or enforcement program standards. When states or tribes do not achieve standards, the Agency works with them to make progress. However, EPA may also take a lead implementation role when authorized states or tribes have a documented history of failure to make progress toward meeting national standards.

In all of its work, EPA's enforcement program strives to address noncompliance in an efficient and timely manner, applying a broad range of enforcement and compliance tools to achieve the goal of reducing noncompliance.

Strategic Measures

- Reduce the time between the identification of an environmental law violation and its correction.
- Increase environmental law compliance rate.

¹⁶ See e.g., ECOS Resolution 98-9, U.S. EPA Enforcement in Delegated States (revised September 28, 2016), describing the EPA and state roles in enforcement in authorized states: "WHEREAS, U.S. EPA and the States have bilaterally developed policy agreements which reflect those roles and which recognize the primary responsibility for enforcement action resides with the States, with U.S. EPA taking enforcement action principally where the State requests assistance, is unwilling or unable to take timely and appropriate enforcement actions, or in actions of national interest, or in actions involving multiple state jurisdictions."

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Civil Enforcement

The overall goal of EPA's civil enforcement program is to maximize compliance with the nation's environmental laws and regulations to protect human health and the environment. The Agency works closely with the U.S. Department of Justice, states, tribes, territories, and local agencies to ensure consistent and fair enforcement of all 12 major environmental statutes. EPA will seek to strengthen environmental partnerships with its state and tribal partners, encourage regulated entities to correct violations rapidly, ensure that violators do not realize an economic benefit from noncompliance, and pursue enforcement to deter future violations.

EPA recognizes that significant environmental progress has been made over the years, much of it due to enforcement efforts by EPA, states, tribes, and local communities. To maximize compliance over the next four years, the Agency will refocus efforts toward areas with significant noncompliance issues and where enforcement can address the most substantial impacts to human health and the environment. Recognizing the role of states and tribes as the primary implementers where authorized by EPA to implement the federal statutes, EPA will focus resources on direct implementation responsibilities and the most significant violations, and assisting authorized states and tribes in meeting national standards. EPA is responsible for direct implementation for programs that are not delegable or where a state or tribe has not sought or obtained the authority to implement a particular program (or program component). Examples include the Clean Air Act mobile source program, pesticide labeling and registration under FIFRA, enforcement in Indian country, enforcement of the federal Superfund cleanup program, and enforcement of non-delegated portions of various other laws, including RCRA, the CWA, and stratospheric ozone under the CAA. EPA also will pursue enforcement actions at federal facilities where significant violations are discovered and ensure that federal facilities are held to the same standards as the private sector and will provide technical and scientific support to states and tribes with authorized programs.

Criminal Enforcement

Over the next four years, EPA will collaborate and coordinate with the U.S. Department of Justice, and state, tribal, and local law enforcement counterparts to ensure that the Agency responds to violations as quickly and effectively as possible. EPA enforces the nation's environmental laws through targeted investigation of criminal conduct committed by individual and corporate defendants that threatens human health and the environment. The Agency plays a critical role across the country since states and tribes have limited capacity to prosecute environmental crimes. The Agency will focus resources on the most egregious environmental cases (i.e., those presenting significant human health and environmental impacts).

Cleanup Enforcement

Through the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund), EPA will facilitate prompt site cleanup and use an "enforcement first" approach that maximizes the participation of liable and viable parties in performing and paying for cleanups. The Agency will protect communities by ensuring that potentially responsible parties (PRPs) conduct cleanups at Superfund sites, preserving federal taxpayer dollars for sites where there are no viable contributing parties, and by recovering costs if the EPA expends Superfund-appropriated dollars to clean up sites. EPA also will address liability concerns that can be a barrier to potential reuse. Addressing the

risks posed by Superfund sites and returning them to productive use strengthens the economy and spurs economic growth.

Over the next four years, EPA will focus its resources on the highest priority sites, particularly those that may present an immediate risk to human health or the environment. In accordance with the Superfund Task Force Report, the Agency will improve and revitalize the Superfund program to ensure that contaminated sites across the country are remediated to protect human health and the environment and returned to beneficial reuse as expeditiously as possible. At federally-owned sites, EPA will also focus on resolving formal disputes under the federal facility agreements.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

Advanced monitoring technology and information technology are rapidly evolving, and advances in these fields offer great opportunities for improving the ability of EPA, states, and tribes to ensure compliance. EPA, states, and tribes do, however, face challenges in keeping up with the rapid pace of change in these technologies. In addition, social science research and knowledge may offer innovative ways to promote compliance. EPA is partnering with states and tribes to help prepare for and use these technologies, consistent with statutory and regulatory obligations. The Agency will collaborate with ECOS and state associations to maximize the use of these technologies and modernize programs. For example, EPA will work with states and academics to pilot and evaluate innovative compliance methods.¹⁷ EPA will work with states to integrate advanced pollution monitoring and information technology into Agency work.

¹⁷ [HYPERLINK "<https://www.ecos.org/?s=value+of+diverse+and+innovative>"]

Objective 3.2 - Create Consistency and Certainty:

Outline exactly what is expected of the regulated community to ensure good stewardship and positive environmental outcomes.

Introduction

The regulatory framework is inherently dynamic. As part of its statutory obligations, EPA is required to publish many regulations within a set timeframe each year that implement environmental programs as well as assist the Agency's operations. These regulations address newly mandated responsibilities as well as updates and revisions to existing regulations. As EPA meets its obligations to protect human health and the environment through regulatory action, it must also meet another key responsibility—minimizing “regulatory uncertainty” that unnecessarily causes businesses and communities to face delays, planning inefficiencies, and compliance complexities that impede environmental protection, economic growth, and development. EPA will employ a set of strategies to reduce regulatory uncertainty while continuing to improve human health and environmental outcomes consistent with the Agency's authorities as established by Congress. These strategies, which reflect EPA's commitment to cooperative federalism and commitment to the rule of law, will also help advance Agency goals for streamlining and modernizing permitting and enhancing shared accountability.

Strategic Measure

- Meet legal deadlines imposed on EPA.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

As EPA issues new or revised regulations, businesses and individuals can find it challenging to know which rules apply to them and to adjust their compliance strategies. Over the next four years, EPA will reinvigorate its approach to regulatory development and prioritize meeting its statutory deadlines to ensure that expectations for the regulated community and the public are clear and comprehensive and that Agency actions are defensible and consistent with its authorities. The Agency will use new approaches and flexible tools to minimize regulatory uncertainty and will communicate more comprehensively to realize more consistent and better environmental outcomes, while centering work on statutory and regulatory obligations. EPA will strengthen working relationships with industry sectors to understand better their needs and challenges in implementing EPA requirements and with communities to understand their concerns. This knowledge will enable the Agency to develop better policies and regulations to protect human health and the environment in line with the authorities given to EPA by Congress.

On average, the EPA faces approximately twenty legal challenges under the various environmental statutes each year that assert that the agency has missed a statutory or regulatory deadline for taking an action or has unreasonably delayed taking an action. In addition, the Agency faces nearly the same number of legal challenges under the Freedom of Information Act for failure to comply with the deadlines in that law. Responding to these challenges often diverts significant EPA resources away from priority activities, and could impact the Agency's ability to fulfill its commitments. In order to facilitate achievement of this goal, EPA will undertake a systematic mapping of the processes associated with these obligations and implement improvements where needed.

In addition, EPA will develop and engage stakeholders in reviewing a draft base catalog of responsibilities that statutes require EPA to perform in programs delegated to states and tribes. The base catalog, to be complete by 2019 and subsequently updated as necessary, will provide EPA a foundation to

make decisions that reduce contradictory policy determinations at headquarters and across regions. It will also support EPA cooperative federalism commitments aimed at minimizing duplication and overlap among regions, headquarters, states, and tribes. This effort also leverages another commitment that EPA is making under cooperative federalism—to identify for all environmental media an inventory and timeline for state-led permits that EPA reviews.

The Agency will establish a national network to ensure consistent implementation of policy across all regions. EPA will review regulatory guidance documents to identify key opportunities and will clarify and realign Agency approaches to improve consistency and clarity. EPA will strengthen working relationships with states, tribes, and local communities to transfer knowledge, leveraging its commitments under cooperative federalism, such as the collaboration under E-Enterprise for the Environment. EPA will make available to states and tribes tools or services designed by other federal agencies, states, tribes, or local communities that enhance efficiency, reduce burden on the regulated community, and improve environmental outcomes.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

A number of factors and emerging issues may impede the Agency's ability to meet this strategic objective. Sustainable resource levels and a strong workforce are critical to success. Proposing and finalizing regulations is often a multi-year process, which can be challenged by lawsuits. EPA also recognizes the need to communicate successes and achievements, both to market effectiveness and to teach others how to replicate successful models and approaches.

Objective 3.3 - Prioritize Robust Science:

Refocus the EPA's robust research and scientific analysis to inform policy making.

Introduction

EPA will identify, assess, conduct, and apply the best available science to address current and future environmental hazards, develop new approaches, and improve the scientific foundation for environmental protection decisions. EPA conducts problem-driven, interdisciplinary research to address specific environmental risks, and is committed to using science and innovation to reduce risks to human health and the environment, based on needs identified by EPA's program offices and state and tribal partners. Specifically, over the next four years, the Agency will strengthen alignment of its research to support EPA programs, regions, states, and tribes in accomplishing their top human health and environmental protection priorities for improved air quality, clean and safe water, revitalized land, and chemical safety. The Agency will also emphasize the translation of its work products for end user application and feedback.

EPA research will be reviewed by various scientific advisory boards (e.g., Board of Scientific Counselors) that are made up of recognized experts in various scientific, engineering, and social science fields and may be from industry, business, public and private research institutes or organizations, academia, government (federal, state, local, and tribal) and nongovernmental organizations, and other relevant interest areas.

Strategic Measure

- Increase the percentage of decisions using EPA research and scientific analysis.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Air Quality

EPA's research will advance the science and provide the information critical to improving air quality and informing stationary source regulations, vehicle and fuel standards and certification, emission inventories, air quality assessments, and domestic ozone actions. The results of Agency research to support air quality program priorities will inform EPA programs; state, local, and tribal air programs; as well as communities and individuals about measures and strategies to reduce air pollution. Researchers will publish peer-reviewed scientific journal articles to disseminate research findings as appropriate and consistent with resource and program needs.

Over the next four years, the Agency will:

- Deliver state-of-the-art tools for states to use in identifying effective emission reduction strategies to meet national ambient air quality standards and enhance air quality measurement methods used to ascertain compliance with NAAQS.
- Assess human and ecosystem exposures and effects associated with air pollutants on individual, community, regional, and global scales.
- Develop and evaluate approaches to prevent and reduce pollution, particularly sustainable, cost-effective, and innovative multi-pollutant and sector-based approaches.
- Provide human exposure and environmental modeling, monitoring, metrics, and information needed to inform air quality decision making at the state and local level.

Safe and Sustainable Water Resources

EPA will develop innovative, cost-effective solutions to current, emerging, and long-term water resource challenges for complex chemical and biological contaminants. Using a systems approach to develop scientific and technological solutions for protecting human health and aquatic ecosystems, EPA researchers partner with program experts, federal and state agencies, tribes, local communities, academia, nongovernmental organizations, and private stakeholders.

Over the next four years, the Agency will:

- Support safe drinking water by focusing research on assessing the distribution, composition, and health impacts of known and emerging chemical and biological contaminants.
- Improve methods for fast and efficient waterborne pathogen monitoring in recreational waters.
- Investigate health impacts from exposure to harmful algal/cyanobacteria toxins, and develop innovative methods to monitor, characterize, and predict blooms for early action.
- Support states in meeting their priorities and setting water quality and aquatic life thresholds.
- Assist states, communities, and utilities in addressing stormwater and wastewater infrastructure needs through applied modeling, technical assistance, and capture-and-reuse risk assessments.
- Provide water reuse research support on potable and non-potable use guidance for states.

Sustainable and Healthy Communities

EPA will conduct research to support regulatory activities and protocol development for the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan and provide on-demand technical support at federal-, tribal-, or state-managed cleanup sites, as well as assistance during emergencies. The Agency conducts health, environmental engineering, and ecological research and prepares planning and analysis tools for localities nationwide to use in facilitating regulatory compliance and improving environmental and health outcomes.

Over the next four years, EPA will:

- Provide technical support to the states through technical support centers for remediating CERCLA-designated contaminated sites and returning them to productive use.
- Assist regional, state, and local leaders in reducing costs and setting science-based cleanup levels in areas designated under CERCLA.
- Characterize sites and contaminants released from leaking underground storage tanks identified under the LUST Trust Fund.
- Work with the ECOS/Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS) to evaluate the causal relationships between ecosystem goods and services and human health, and to document these relationships using EnviroAtlas.
- Assess the impact of pollution (e.g., health impact assessments) on such vulnerable groups as children, tribes, environmental justice communities, and other susceptible populations.

Chemical Safety

EPA will evaluate and predict impacts from chemical use and disposal and provide states with information, tools, and methods to make better informed, more timely decisions about the thousands of chemicals in the United States. The Agency will produce innovative tools that accelerate the pace of data-

driven evaluations, enable knowledge-based decisions that protect human health, and advance the science required to anticipate and solve problems.

Over the next four years, EPA will:

- Provide tools to more efficiently and cost-effectively evaluate the biological activity and health risks of chemicals and reduce the use of toxicity tests to animals.
- Use ToxCast/Tox21 data to develop high-throughput risk assessments, particularly for chemicals for which adequate risk assessment information has been historically unavailable.
- Develop online software tools to provide information on thousands of chemicals and integrate health, environmental, and exposure data to support regulatory and prioritization decisions.
- Explore how high-throughput exposure and hazard information can be combined to predict the potential for exposure and risk to susceptible subpopulations.
- Conduct nanoparticle research by using life-cycle analyses, evaluating impacts on ecosystem health, and supporting the development of safer nanomaterials in private industry.

Human Health Risk Assessment

EPA also will focus on the science of assessments that inform Agency, state, and tribal decisions and policies. These risk assessments provide the research and technical support needed to ensure safety of chemicals in the marketplace, revitalize and return land to communities, provide clean and safe water, and work with states to improve air quality.

Over the next four years, EPA will:

- Develop a portfolio of chemical evaluation products that use the best available science for use by EPA, states, tribes, and other federal agencies.
- Provide research and scientific support for proper TSCA implementation, as Congress intended.
- Develop assessment products, peer-reviewed toxicity values, and advanced exposure assessment tools to help inform Superfund and hazardous waste cleanups as required by RCRA and CERCLA.
- Provide scientific support to the risk and technology reviews conducted under the CAA.
- Provide integrated science assessments (ISAs) to support decisions to retain or revise the national ambient air quality standards. ISAs also inform benefit-cost and other analyses conducted by state and local officials to support implementation of air quality management programs.
- Provide research and technical support to deliver safe drinking water by evaluating exposures to and health impacts of known and emerging chemical and biological contaminants.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

EPA faces a number of challenges in its commitment to conducting robust science. Aging information technology infrastructure, for example, presents a risk to information security and limits the capacity for information management. Recruiting and maintaining a strong workforce with appropriate scientific and technical skillsets are also critical to EPA's research efforts.

Objective 3.4 - Streamline and Modernize:

Issue permits more quickly and modernize our permitting and reporting systems.

Introduction

EPA implements a host of environmental statutes that affect the regulated community. Permitting requirements under these statutes can impose a variety of costs, including direct costs and opportunity costs related to uncertainty, delay, and cancellation. Delays in the approval of permits and modifications by federal or state permitting authorities can postpone or prevent manufacturers from building, expanding, or beginning operations, even if the affected operations ultimately may be deemed suitable as proposed. Delays can also impact construction of major infrastructure projects. EPA is committing to speeding up approvals of permits and modifications to create certainty for the business community, leading to increased jobs and economic prosperity, and streamlining permit renewals, which incorporate up-to-date information and requirements more quickly, improving environmental protection. Further, EPA will continue to convert permit applications and reports that rely on paper submissions to electronic processing in order to reduce burden, shorten the wait for approval, and increase the opportunity for public transparency.

Strategic Measure

- Accelerate permitting-related decisions.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Over the next four years, EPA will systematically collect and report permitting data for each of its permitting programs. The Agency will also employ business process improvement strategies, such as Lean, to improve efficiencies in all permitting processes and meet our commitments. The Agency will also work with states and use Lean techniques to streamline the review of state-issued permits. Solutions may include conducting earlier triage and communications, conducting Agency reviews in parallel with public reviews, and/or focusing reviews where they add the most value.

EPA will also consider where policy changes can improve permitting efficiency without sacrificing environmental results. Examples include expanding the scope of minor permit modifications to reduce the number of permit reviews required, reinvigorating the use of plant-wide applicability limits (PALs) to reduce unnecessary permitting transactions, and increasing states' ability to incorporate federal regulations by reference, enabling them to adjust quickly and efficiently to new regulatory provisions.

EPA will modernize permitting and reporting processes through E-Enterprise for the Environment, a collaboration among EPA, states, tribes, and territories, building upon efforts to date:

- E-Enterprise Web Portal: A web portal that allows the states, tribes, regulated community, and EPA to transact business, such as permitting and reporting, and provides easy access to needed information.
- E-reporting: A systematic digital approach that enables states, tribes, and the regulated community to move from paper-based to electronic reporting.
- E-permitting: An online system to ensure the ability to apply for, track the status of, and receive a permit electronically.

- The Environmental Information Exchange Network: Managed under the collaborative leadership of EPA, states, territories, and tribes, a communication, data, and services platform for submitting and sharing environmental information among partners to foster informed decision making.
- SPeCS for SIPs (State Plan Electronic Collection System for State Implementation Plans): A web-based system for authorized state, local, and tribal governments to submit and manage SIPs under the Clean Air Act.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

Sustainable resource levels for states and EPA are critical to efforts to streamline and modernize permitting processes. Support from states and tribes, including state and tribal capacity for maintaining and increasing delegation, is also critical. The global shift to digital services for communication and transaction raises expectations of EPA stakeholders and provides more robust approaches and technologies for developing electronic services.

Objective 3.5 - Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness:

Provide proper leadership and internal operations management to ensure that the Agency is fulfilling its mission.

Introduction

To support its mission to protect human health and the environment, EPA will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its business processes. Focus areas will include financial, facility, human resource, contract, grant, and information technology/information management. EPA will improve its future workforce, modernize and streamline its business practices, and take advantage of new collaborative and cost-effective tools and technologies. The Agency will build a modern and secure work environment that will protect critical information and support its efforts to address the environmental problems of the 21st century. EPA will work to alleviate challenges associated with outdated or non-existent policies, tension between centralized and decentralized approaches, myriad federal acquisition and grants requirements, complex processes, and fluctuating levels of expertise across Agency programs.

Strategic Measures

- Reduce unnecessary or unused office, warehouse, and lab space.
- Reduce procurement processing time.
- Improve operational processes.
- Increase enterprise adoption of shared services.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

EPA will modernize and improve business processes and operations to promote transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness; enhance collaborative, results-driven partnerships with internal and external business partners; recruit, develop, and maintain a highly-skilled, diverse, and engaged workforce; and improve the capabilities and cost-effectiveness of its information technology (IT) and information management (IM) systems.

EPA will apply Lean principles and will leverage input from customer-focused councils, advisory groups, surveys, workgroups, acquisition partnership initiatives, technical user groups, portfolio reviews, and federal advisory committees to identify business process streamlining opportunities. To improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of its operations, EPA will standardize and streamline internal business processes in its acquisition and grants processes and systems and use additional federal and/or internal shared services when supported by business case analysis.

EPA will ensure its workforce is positioned to accomplish the Agency's mission effectively by providing access to quality training and development opportunities that will improve staff's and managers' skills, knowledge, and performance, and prepare them to capitalize on opportunities that advance progress. EPA will improve its workforce planning and management strategies, strengthen its Senior Executive Service, and focus on developing and maintaining a highly-skilled technical workforce.

EPA also will transform and modernize its information systems, tools, and processes to improve how the Agency collaborates both internally and with external stakeholders. EPA will enhance the power of

information by delivering on-demand data to the right people at the right time. To enable the Agency, its partners, and the public effectively to acquire, generate, manage, use, and share information—a critical resource in protecting human health and the environment—EPA will improve its IT/IM capabilities and customer experiences. EPA will employ enterprise risk management and financial data analytics to support data management decision making, using the enterprise risk management framework mandated by OMB Circular A-123.

To ensure that critical environmental and human health information is adequately protected, EPA will strengthen its cybersecurity posture. The Agency will focus on implementing two key cybersecurity priorities—the mandated federal-government-wide Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) effort, and the complementary EPA-specific Cyber Risk Mitigation Projects (CRMPs). These two priorities introduce or improve upon dozens of cybersecurity capabilities, enhance the Agency’s ability to respond to threats, and improve EPA’s privacy posture via the Privacy Act of 1974. EPA will work closely with the Department of Homeland Security and other partners in implementing CDM capabilities.

To better understand complex interactions between pollutants and the environment and address the environmental problems of the 21st century effectively and efficiently, EPA and its partners analyze large volumes of data. EPA will develop a comprehensive data management strategy that addresses the collection, management, and use of data generated both internally and from external partners including states/tribes, grantees, the regulated community, and citizen science. The Agency will deploy new data analysis, data visualization, and geospatial tools in a Cloud-based framework to enable analysis and provide the basis for informed decision making.

Environmental decision making across media programs requires access to high-quality data and analytics, and EPA will build shared IT services, maximizing the benefits of our investments and ensuring consistency and scalability in tools and services. Over the next four years, EPA programs that receive submissions from outside the Agency—whether from the reporting community, states, tribes, or local governments—will rely increasingly on centrally-developed and maintained information services, decreasing the volume of code each program must develop and maintain. Shared services will reduce reporting burden for submitting entities and improve data quality for EPA. EPA programs, states, and tribes must establish a common catalog of shared services and agree to a minimum set of common standards and practices.

The Agency will enhance its extensive information resources by designing an enterprise-wide information architecture that will facilitate the electronic management of data and information, as well as multimodal access, effective searching, and ease of use. The Agency’s future information management architecture will support official recordkeeping requirements, as well as daily document management, business processes, information access, and legal needs of EPA employees and organizations, while also being flexible, scalable, and cost effective.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

EPA faces a number of factors that may impede its ability to promote effective and efficient internal operations. The Agency’s ability to attract and retain staff skilled in human resources, IT/IM, cybersecurity, and acquisition management and staff with scientific and technical expertise is a continuing challenge in improving Agency operations. A lack of category-focused skills and business acumen can negatively affect strategic sourcing decisions. Myriad federal acquisition and grant requirements, complex processes, and varying levels of expertise across Agency programs often prevent the timely awarding of contract and grant vehicles to meet Agency demands. EPA must increase its competencies in these areas through a robust training program for staff and managers.

Without standard business processes, EPA cannot achieve its objectives. For example, tension between local needs and Agency-wide strategies may result in missed opportunities to make effective strategic sourcing decisions. This not only impedes Agency efforts to modernize business processes and streamline IT infrastructure, but also affects the ability of government shared service providers to serve additional customers and use standard software to achieve efficiencies and cost savings. Furthermore, continually changing IT/IM and security requirements and variation among states and tribes require development of a holistic “Enterprise-Level Vision and Data Strategy” that optimizes both business processes and solutions; aligns all data programs, resources, and budgets; and strengthens the Agency’s enterprise risk strategies. Demands for IT/IM services will continue to grow, due to the increasing volume of environmental data and increased expectations of other agencies, regulated entities, the public, and EPA staff. As cybersecurity risks evolve, protecting EPA’s information assets will continue to be a challenge.

Message

From: Fotouhi, David [Fotouhi.David@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/19/2018 2:09:07 AM
To: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]; Bodine, Susan [bodine.susan@epa.gov]; Brown, Byron [brown.byron@epa.gov]; Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]; Bennett, Tate [Bennett.Tate@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: CERCLA EPCRA reporting

ATTORNEY-CLIENT COMMUNICATION—DELIBERATIVE—DO NOT RELEASE

Ex. 5 AC/DP

Best,

David

David Fotouhi

Deputy General Counsel
Office of General Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Tel: +1 202.564.1976
fotouhi.david@epa.gov

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 6:58 PM
To: Bodine, Susan <bodine.susan@epa.gov>; Brown, Byron <brown.byron@epa.gov>; Fotouhi, David <Fotouhi.David@epa.gov>; Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Bennett, Tate <Bennett.Tate@epa.gov>
Subject: CERCLA EPCRA reporting

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

The radio ad started running yesterday which I think sounds great.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ex. 6

Message

From: Bahadori, Tina [Bahadori.Tina@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/13/2018 2:37:54 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
CC: Thayer, Kris [thayer.kris@epa.gov]; Lavoie, Emma [Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov]; Cogliano, Vincent [cogliano.vincent@epa.gov]; Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Ag connections -- ammonia risk assessment

Of course – we would be glad to do this.
Looking forward to the opportunity to meet you.
Tina

From: Sands, Jeffrey
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 9:30 AM
To: Bahadori, Tina <Bahadori.Tina@epa.gov>
Cc: Thayer, Kris <thayer.kris@epa.gov>; Lavoie, Emma <Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov>; Cogliano, Vincent <cogliano.vincent@epa.gov>; Subramanian, Hema <Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Ag connections -- ammonia risk assessment

Hi Tina,

I hope this note finds you well. I appreciate you reaching out and offering to brief the office on your latest efforts regarding ammonia. Hema (Special Assistant in the Ag Advisor's office) and I would love to have the opportunity to learn more. If you and your team could work with her in setting up a time, I would be grateful.

Thanks very much!!

Best,
Jeff

From: Bahadori, Tina
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 10:57 AM
To: Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>
Cc: Thayer, Kris <thayer.kris@epa.gov>; Lavoie, Emma <Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov>; Cogliano, Vincent <cogliano.vincent@epa.gov>
Subject: Ag connections -- ammonia risk assessment

Good morning Jeff,
My name is Tina Bahadori and I am the Director of the EPA/ORD National Center for Environmental Assessment where we do chemical assessments. We are currently working on an assessment of ammonia, primarily to provide the Office of Water with values relevant to drinking water exposure. Since an ammonia assessment is likely to be of interest to the agricultural industry, we wanted to check with you to see if you would like a briefing on this work.

Regards,

Tina

Tina Bahadori, Sc.D.
Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment (EPA/ORD/NCEA)
National Program Director, Human Health Risk Assessment (EPA/ORD/HHRA)

RRB Room 71210; Telephone: 202-564-7903; Mobile: Ex. 6

Message

From: Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/13/2017 9:20:59 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]
CC: Ferris, Lena [Ferris.Lena@epa.gov]; Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: 2ND REQUEST. URGENT MEDIA INQUIRY...
Attachments: FRRCC Membership Grid - January 2017.docx

Liz,

I am the new Special Assistant to the Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Agriculture (Jeff Sands). Below is the inquiry from Farm Bureau press that Lena Ferris checked in with you about earlier today. They are seeing the current list of FRRCC members, which is attached.

Thank you, and let me know if there are any questions.
---Hema.

Hema Subramanian
Environmental Protection Specialist
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water: Office of Wastewater Management/Water Permits Division/Rural Branch
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Mail Code 4203M
Washington, DC 20460
Phone (202) 564-5041
subramanian.hema@epa.gov

From: rutcom@aol.com [mailto:rutcom@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2017 2:29 PM
To: Ferris, Lena <Ferris.Lena@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: 2ND REQUEST. URGENT MEDIA INQUIRY...

Lena,
Can you get someone to help. I'm on deadline and I want to make sure I get the most current list.. Thanks,

Jim Rutledge
Farm World

-----Original Message-----

From: Ferris, Lena <Ferris.Lena@epa.gov>
To: rutcom@aol.com
Sent: Thu, Nov 9, 2017 2:10 pm
Subject: Re: 2ND REQUEST. URGENT MEDIA INQUIRY...

Yes I can but I am out of the office till Monday. I believe we only have 8 current members. The term period the the rest expired. Will send you on Monday.

Lena Ferris
Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 9, 2017, at 11:55 AM, "rutcom@aol.com" <rutcom@aol.com> wrote:

Ms. Ferris,

Please send me a current list of the members of the FRRCC.

Thank you,

Jim Rutledge
Farm World

-----Original Message-----

From: rutcom <rutcom@aol.com>

To: ferris.lena <ferris.lena@epa.gov>

Sent: Wed, Nov 8, 2017 5:36 pm

Subject: media inquiry

Ms. Ferris,

I'm a DC based writer for a national ag. industry newspaper, *Farm World*..
Can you provide me with a list of the current members of the FRRCC).

Thank you,

Jim Rutledge
DC Correspondent
Farm World newspaper and farmworldonline.com
Bethesda, MD

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee (FRRCC)
01/01/17 – 10/7/18 & 12/7/18MEMBERSHIP GRID**

Name, Title, Affiliation, City and State, Term and Type of Appointment	Point of View	Region	Experience	Basis for Recommendation
Membership as of 2017				
<p>Johnson, Patrick Partner Cypress Brake Planting Co. Tunica, MS</p> <p>Member Since: 6/8/2012 Term Expires: 10/7/18</p> <p>Appointment: REPRESENTATIVE</p>	<p>1. <u>Business/Industry</u> 2. Cypress Brake Planting Co.; National Cotton Council</p>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commodity production (cotton, rice, corn, soybeans, wheat, and grain sorghum) • Local / rural leadership 	<p>Mr. Johnson represents the Cypress Brake Planting Company and the National Cotton Council. Mr. Johnson manages day-to-day operations at his family farm in northwestern Mississippi producing cotton, rice, corn, soybeans, wheat, and grain sorghum. Mr. Johnson has worked with USDA-NRCS to develop conservation plans for his operation and has supervised his farm's participation in multiple projects implementing conservation practices in accordance with EQIP guidelines on over 2,500 acres to improve soil and water quality. Mr. Johnson is a current member of the National Cotton Council's Environmental Task Force and a Producer Delegate to the Council, as well as a graduate of the National Cotton Council's Cotton Leadership Program. In addition, Mr. Johnson serves on the Board of Directors of the Tunica County Farm Bureau and the Delta Council and holds several leadership roles within his local community.</p>
<p>Korson, Phillip President Cherry Marketing Institute Lansing, MI</p> <p>Member Since: 6/8/2012 Term Expires: 10/7/18</p> <p>Appointment: REPRESENTATIVE</p>	<p>1. <u>Business/Industry</u> 2. Cherry Marketing Institute</p>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialty crop production 	<p>Mr. Korson represents the Cherry Marketing Institute. He has served as Executive Director of the Michigan Cherry Committee since 1988. His experience of working with farms of specialty crop production will allow him to provide a valuable and significant perspective as a committee members on crop production.</p>

Name, Title, Affiliation, City and State, Term and Type of Appointment	Point of View	Region	Experience	Basis for Recommendation
<p>Logan, Joseph Director of Agricultural Programs Ohio Environmental Council</p> <p>Member Since: 10/7/2014 Term Expires: 10/7/2018</p> <p>Appointment: REPRESENTATIVE</p>	<p>1. <u>Business/Industry</u> 2. National Farmers Union</p>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers Financing • Milk production labor • State and national legislative 	<p>Representing the National Farmers Union. Mr. Logan is the past president of the Ohio Farmers Union and he has sat on the Board of Directors of the National Farmers Union, where he served as chairman of the Budget and Audit Committee and vice chair of the Legislative Committee. His experience in USDA's Farm Service Agency is instrumental in advancing the work of the FRRCC.</p>
<p>Martin, Paul Owner/Manager Spear Six Ranch Petaluma, CA</p> <p>Member Since: 6/8/2012 Term Expires: 10/7/18</p> <p>Appointment: REPRESENTATIVE</p>	<p>1. <u>Business/Industry</u> 2. Spear Six Ranch</p>	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy production and ranching • Air quality • Environmental regulation 	<p>Mr. Martin represents Spear Six Ranch. Mr. Martin has served as a member of USDA's Agricultural Air Quality Task Force and the National Milk Producers Federation Dairy Environmental Task Force. His considerable experience as a dairyman, ranch, and agricultural environmental specialist will be beneficial to serve on the committee.</p>
<p>Noonan, Roger Owner/Manager, Middle Branch Farm New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts</p> <p>Member Since: 10/7/2014 Term Expires: 10/7/2018</p> <p>Appointment: REPRESENTATIVE</p>	<p>1. <u>NGO</u> 2. National Farmers Union</p>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock production and processing • Commodity production • Organic agriculture 	<p>Representing the interest of the National Farmers Union, Mr. Noonan currently provides conservation leadership, guidance, and oversight for ten county Conservation Districts. He is the current president of New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts and the New England Farmers Union, where his expertise on soil health practices is invaluable to the committee.</p>
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Name, Title, Affiliation, City and State, Term and Type of Appointment	Point of View	Region	Experience	Basis for Recommendation
Shippentower, Cheryl Plant Ecologist Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Pendleton, OR Member Since: 6/7/2012 Term Expires: 10/7/2018 Appointment: REPRESENTATIVE	1. <u>Tribal Government</u> 2. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant ecology • Botany • Local government 	Cheryl Shippentower represents the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla. She manages ecological restoration and monitoring of range and forestlands on the Umatilla reservation. Her experience conducting daily operations as a plant ecologist will be a valuable asset to the committee.
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Message

From: Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/7/2017 1:21:30 PM
To: Perrin, Rebecca [Perrin.Rebecca@epa.gov]
CC: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Jeff Sands bio
Attachments: Jeff Sands BIO.DOCX

Hello Rebecca, attached is Jeff's bio. It has now been cleared by OPA.

Thank you,
---Hema.

Hema Subramanian
Special Assistant to the Senior Advisor for Agriculture (detail)
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Phone (202) 564-5041
subramanian.hema@epa.gov

Jeff Sands is the Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Agriculture at the Environmental Protection Agency. Jeff comes to EPA most recently from Syngenta, where he served as Manager of Federal Government and Industry Relations. Before working at Syngenta, Sands was director of public policy for the Agricultural Retailers Association from 2012 to 2015. Jeff also has Capitol Hill experience, having helped handle agricultural issues as an aide to Rep. Tom Marino (R-Pa.).

Sands has a master's degree in public administration as well as a bachelor's degree in organizational communication from Valdosta State University. He also has a degree in environmental horticulture from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Message

From: Ferris, Lena [Ferris.Lena@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/13/2017 6:09:58 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]; Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: 2ND REQUEST. URGENT MEDIA INQUIRY...
Attachments: FRRCC Membership Grid - January 2017.docx

Jeff and Hema –

This reporter from Farm World wanted the info on the remaining FRRCC Members. I suggest you have Office of Public Affairs answer them. We are not supposed to be talking to press directly. Here is the list of the remaining 8 members.

Lena Ferris

From: rutcom@aol.com [mailto:rutcom@aol.com]
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Message

From: Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/5/2017 9:59:10 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: Latest Meeting Requests sheet
Attachments: Meeting requests for Jeff Sands.docx

Here is an un-networked version of the file, in case you'd like to see the latest and have trouble getting into One Drive.
---Hema.

Hema Subramanian
Special Assistant to the Senior Advisor for Agriculture (detail)
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Phone (202) 564-5041
subramanian.hema@epa.gov

Meeting requests for Jeff Sands

Date	Event/Contact	Location (Doable by phone?)	Priorit y	Topics	POC	Status
December 2017						
Dec. 4 Mon	GA Farm Bureau Annual Mtg	Jekyll Island, GA		Dicamba Wotus		Done
Dec. 6- 7 Wed- Thu	R7 Four State Environmental Directors' Meeting. Dec. 6 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. CT December 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CT	Region 7 HQ Lenexa, KS			Curtis Carey or Wendy Lubbe (R7) Chad Nitsch (HQ)	Ken Wagner attending
Dec. 7 Thu	Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City Annual Meeting	Kansas City, MO		Good chance to meet with the Board of Directors	Curtis Carey (R7)	
Dec. 7 Thu 10 am	Cotton Council	DC			Steve Hensley and Don Parker	Confirmed
Dec. 8 10:00 am Fri	National Corn Growers Assoc. President Kevin Skunes Kathy Bergen Colleen Willard	Jeff's office		pesticide s and the renewabl e fuel standard	Colleen Willard [HYPERLINK "mailto:willard@ncga.com" \h] Ex. 6	
Dec 8 11:15 – 12 Fri	USDA Office of the Chief Scientist				Hema Fleischhacker, Sheila - OSEC, Washington, DC <Sheila.Fleischhacker@osec.usda.g ov>; Babson, David - OSEC, Washington, DC <David.Babson@osec.usda.gov>	Confirmed

Last updated: [DATE \@ "M/d/yyyy h:mm am/pm"]

Date	Event/Contact	Location (Doable by phone?)	Priorit y	Topics	POC	Status
Week of Dec. 4 or 11	CropLife America	EPA			Smart Sectors is setting up	
Dec. 11-12 (speak 11 th 2:00 – 2:30 pm), fly back late Tue	EPA Region 7&8 State Department of Agriculture Meeting	Denver, CO		RFS WOTUS FRRCC plans for the office AADG Mtg Smart Sectors - can mention but not sure how to promote that because these folks are used to their ag advisors. Ken and Jeff can clarify their roles. Rick Keigwin will do OPP	Rebecca Perrin (R8) – [HYPERLINK "mailto:Perrin.rebecca@epa.gov" \h]	Confirmed speaking on 12 th . See 11/9 email 11/20 – hotel block closes

Last updated: [DATE \@ "M/d/yyyy h:mm am/pm"]

Date	Event/Contact	Location (Doable by phone?)	Priorit y	Topics	POC	Status
Dec. 13/14	OECA				Ethel Bailey – Susan Bodine's assistant + Traylor, Patrick; Starfield, Lawrence;	Gave these windows, Wed. 13 th : 9 am – 1 pm, 2-3 pm, 4-5 pm Thu. 14 th 9 am – 1 pm
Dec. 13 10:30 am Wed	NM Secretary of Ag	EPA			Ken Wagner	
January 2018						
Jan. 4&5	NACD	Grand Rapids, MI			Gerald – Karen Fluornoy going	Waiting on them
Jan. 5- 10	American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention	Nashville, TN				Randy Rush (R6) gave a heads up (not invitation)
Jan. 7 10:30 am Sun	Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit	Kansas City, MO			Carolyn Orr [[HYPERLINK "mailto:corr@agandruralleaders.or g"]] State Agriculture and Rural Leaders & Council of State Governments	Confirmed

Last updated: [DATE \@ "M/d/yyyy h:mm am/pm"]

Date	Event/Contact	Location (Doable by phone?)	Priorit y	Topics	POC	Status
Jan. 9 Tue.	[HYPERLINK "http://www.farmshow.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx"]	Harrisbur g, PA			Kelly Shenk (R3) – [HYPERLINK "mailto:shenk.kelly@epa.gov" \h] Cosmo's Scheduler: Renee Searfoss Cecil's Scheduler: Laura Correa	follow up directly with Cosmo's and Cecil's schedulers. thi nk they are planning on January 9 th
Jan. 10	R6 State DOAs/EPA Meeting	Dallas, TX			Randy Rush (R6 Ag Advisor)	
Jan. 27- 31	NACD Annual Meeting	Nashville, TN				Randy Rush (R6) gave a heads up (not invitation)
Jan. 30 – Feb. 1 Tue- Thu	International Production & Processing Expo - 1/30 – [HYPERLINK "https://ippe18.mapyourshow.com/7_0/sessions/s ession-details.cfm?ScheduleID=2" \h] - 1/31 – USP&E & NTF Environmental Cmte Mtg	Atlanta, GA			U.S. Poultry & Egg Assoc. - Paul Bredwell - [HYPERLINK "mailto:pbredwell@uspoultry.org" \h] EPA HQ OWM CAFO Team – Ross Brennan – [HYPERLINK "mailto:Brennan.ross@epa.gov" \h] Andrew Sawyers attending. Also Mark Zolandz likely. Kelly is not.	
Feb. 2 Fri.	2018 Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show	Phoenix, AZ			Scott Yager [HYPERLINK "mailto:syager@beef.org" \h]	
February 2018						
Feb. 20	CTIC Board Meeting	DC			Lara Moody	

Last updated: [DATE \@ "M/d/yyyy h:mm am/pm"]

Date	Event/Contact	Location (Doable by phone?)	Priorit y	Topics	POC	Status
March 2018						
Mar. 7 Wed	Biological Products Industry Alliance	San Diego, CA			Laurie-Ann Flanagan	
SPRING TBD	Smart Sectors FL tour (FYI)	FL				
April 2018						
Apr. 11 Wed	Country View Family Farms grand opening of a new, state of the art, sow farm. Hosted tour/luncheon	southern Bedford County, PA			Kelly Shenk (R3) – [HYPERLINK "mailto:shenk.kelly@epa.gov" \h] Bill Fink, Environmental Management Specialist with Farm	PA Ag Secretary Redding is scheduled to be on hand for the event
May 2018						
June 2018						
Jun 11- 12	TFI 4Rs Summit	Des Moines, IA				
July 2018						
July 11, backup s: 12 th & 17 th	CTIC Farm Tour	Delmarva			Kelly Shenk (R3) – [HYPERLINK "mailto:shenk.kelly@epa.gov" \h]	See email
August 2018						

Message

From: Bennett, Tate [Bennett.Tate@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/12/2018 10:29:43 PM
To: Michael Formica [formicam@nppc.org]
CC: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]; Dewey, Amy [Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]; Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: NPPC Wants Votes On Four Key Trump Nominees

Thanks Mike!

On Feb 12, 2018, at 3:40 PM, Michael Formica <formicam@nppc.org> wrote:

FYI –

Just wanted to direct your attention to the press release we just issued calling for the Senate to move forward and confirm four outstanding nominees important to agriculture including Andy Wheeler as Deputy Administrator at EPA.

From: NPPC News
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 3:35 PM
Subject: NPPC Wants Votes On Four Key Trump Nominees

<image001.jpg>

NPPC Wants Votes On Four Key Trump Nominees

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 12, 2018 – The National Pork Producers Council today urged Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., to schedule confirmation votes on four long-languishing Trump administration nominees for positions important to U.S. pork producers and American agriculture.

In a letter to the two leaders, NPPC asked the Senate to fulfill its “vital role in ensuring that our federal agencies are adequately staffed by moving quickly to schedule votes and confirm” Gregg Doud as chief agricultural negotiator at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Bill Northey as undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stephen Vaden as USDA’s general counsel and Andrew Wheeler as deputy administrator at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

“All four candidates are highly qualified, and the positions they will fill are extremely important to the U.S. pork industry and American agriculture,” wrote NPPC President Ken Maschhoff, a pork producer from Carlyle, Ill. “The nominees will oversee policies and programs that farmers and ranchers depend on.”

Doud currently is president of the Commodity Markets Council, and he previous was a senior aide to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. Doud, who grew up on a family farm in Kansas, also worked for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and for U.S. Wheat Associates.

Northey is secretary of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. He previously served as president of the National Corn Growers Association and on Iowa’s USDA Farm Service Agency state committee.

Vaden, who has been at USDA since President Trump’s inauguration, grew up on a family farm in west Tennessee before coming to Washington to work at two of D.C.’s biggest law firms.

Wheeler is the co-leader of the energy practice at the law firm Faegre Baker Daniels and formerly served on the staff of Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., including as the long-time staff director of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. He also worked at EPA’s Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics during both the George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton administrations.

#

NPPC is the global voice for the U.S. pork industry, protecting the livelihoods of America’s 60,000 pork producers, who abide by ethical principles in caring for their animals, in protecting the environment and public health and in providing safe, wholesome, nutritious pork products to consumers worldwide. For more information, visit www.nppc.org.

<image002.jpg>

Message

From: Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/12/2018 8:42:54 PM
To: Winnett, Steven [winnett.steven@epa.gov]; Winn, G. Dean [winn.gerald@epa.gov]; Heinemann, Kristina [Heinemann.Kristina@epa.gov]; Shenk, Kelly [shenk.kelly@epa.gov]; Flournoy, Karen [Flournoy.Karen@epa.gov]; Perrin, Rebecca [Perrin.Rebecca@epa.gov]; Miller, Amy [Miller.Amy@epa.gov]; Peak, Nicholas [Peak.Nicholas@epa.gov]; Rush, Randall [Rush.Randall@epa.gov]
CC: Mortensen, Ginah [mortensen.ginah@epa.gov]; Galloway, Carol [Galloway.Carol@epa.gov]; Nitsch, Chad [Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov]; Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: FRRCC info
Attachments: FRRCC Membership Grid - January 2017.docx

Ag Advisors,

As follow up to our call today, attached is a table with our 8 remaining FRRCC Members, for your information.

Also, here is the website where the 2016/final activity of the last committee is now posted. It is linked to from the "Reports and Advice Letters" tab of the [FRRCC home page](https://www.epa.gov/faca/frcc-home-page). Note that the last final report and Administrator response on the soil health charge were from the last Administration, and do not reflect activities of the current Administration.
<https://www.epa.gov/faca/frcc-may-2016-meeting-final-documents>

---Hema.

Hema Subramanian
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subramanian.hema@epa.gov

Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee (FRRCC)
01/01/17 – 10/7/18 & 12/7/18MEMBERSHIP GRID**

Name, Title, Affiliation, City and State, Term and Type of Appointment	Point of View	Region	Experience	Basis for Recommendation
Membership as of 2017				
<p>Johnson, Patrick Partner Cypress Brake Planting Co. Tunica, MS</p> <p>Member Since: 6/8/2012 Term Expires: 10/7/18</p> <p>Appointment: REPRESENTATIVE</p>	<p>1. <u>Business/Industry</u> 2. Cypress Brake Planting Co.; National Cotton Council</p>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commodity production (cotton, rice, corn, soybeans, wheat, and grain sorghum) • Local / rural leadership 	<p>Mr. Johnson represents the Cypress Brake Planting Company and the National Cotton Council. Mr. Johnson manages day-to-day operations at his family farm in northwestern Mississippi producing cotton, rice, corn, soybeans, wheat, and grain sorghum. Mr. Johnson has worked with USDA-NRCS to develop conservation plans for his operation and has supervised his farm's participation in multiple projects implementing conservation practices in accordance with EQIP guidelines on over 2,500 acres to improve soil and water quality. Mr. Johnson is a current member of the National Cotton Council's Environmental Task Force and a Producer Delegate to the Council, as well as a graduate of the National Cotton Council's Cotton Leadership Program. In addition, Mr. Johnson serves on the Board of Directors of the Tunica County Farm Bureau and the Delta Council and holds several leadership roles within his local community.</p>
<p>Korson, Phillip President Cherry Marketing Institute Lansing, MI</p> <p>Member Since: 6/8/2012 Term Expires: 10/7/18</p> <p>Appointment: REPRESENTATIVE</p>	<p>1. <u>Business/Industry</u> 2. Cherry Marketing Institute</p>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialty crop production 	<p>Mr. Korson represents the Cherry Marketing Institute. He has served as Executive Director of the Michigan Cherry Committee since 1988. His experience of working with farms of specialty crop production will allow him to provide a valuable and significant perspective as a committee members on crop production.</p>

Name, Title, Affiliation, City and State, Term and Type of Appointment	Point of View	Region	Experience	Basis for Recommendation
<p>Logan, Joseph Director of Agricultural Programs Ohio Environmental Council</p> <p>Member Since: 10/7/2014 Term Expires: 10/7/2018</p> <p>Appointment: REPRESENTATIVE</p>	<p>1. <u>Business/Industry</u> 2. National Farmers Union</p>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers Financing • Milk production labor • State and national legislative 	<p>Representing the National Farmers Union. Mr. Logan is the past president of the Ohio Farmers Union and he has sat on the Board of Directors of the National Farmers Union, where he served as chairman of the Budget and Audit Committee and vice chair of the Legislative Committee. His experience in USDA's Farm Service Agency is instrumental in advancing the work of the FRRCC.</p>
<p>Martin, Paul Owner/Manager Spear Six Ranch Petaluma, CA</p> <p>Member Since: 6/8/2012 Term Expires: 10/7/18</p> <p>Appointment: REPRESENTATIVE</p>	<p>1. <u>Business/Industry</u> 2. Spear Six Ranch</p>	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy production and ranching • Air quality • Environmental regulation 	<p>Mr. Martin represents Spear Six Ranch. Mr. Martin has served as a member of USDA's Agricultural Air Quality Task Force and the National Milk Producers Federation Dairy Environmental Task Force. His considerable experience as a dairyman, ranch, and agricultural environmental specialist will be beneficial to serve on the committee.</p>
<p>Noonan, Roger Owner/Manager, Middle Branch Farm New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts</p> <p>Member Since: 10/7/2014 Term Expires: 10/7/2018</p> <p>Appointment: REPRESENTATIVE</p>	<p>1. <u>NGO</u> 2. National Farmers Union</p>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock production and processing • Commodity production • Organic agriculture 	<p>Representing the interest of the National Farmers Union, Mr. Noonan currently provides conservation leadership, guidance, and oversight for ten county Conservation Districts. He is the current president of New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts and the New England Farmers Union, where his expertise on soil health practices is invaluable to the committee.</p>
<p>Rynning, Robert Owner/Manager Robert & Tim Rynning Farm Kennedy, MN</p> <p>Member Since: 6/8/2012 Term Expires: 10/7/2018</p> <p>Appointment: REPRESENTATIVE</p>	<p>1. <u>Business/Industry</u> 2. Robert & Tim Rynning Farm</p>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commodity production (barley, canola, wheat, soybeans) • Local/rural leadership 	<p>Mr. Rynning represents the Robert & Tim Rynning Farm. He operates a diversified family farm growing barley, canola, wheat, and soybeans near Kennedy, Minnesota. He currently serves as a Producer Director on the Board of Directors for the U.S. Canola Association. He is an instrumental voice serving on the committee.</p>

Name, Title, Affiliation, City and State, Term and Type of Appointment	Point of View	Region	Experience	Basis for Recommendation
Shippentower, Cheryl Plant Ecologist Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Pendleton, OR Member Since: 6/7/2012 Term Expires: 10/7/2018 Appointment: REPRESENTATIVE	1. <u>Tribal Government</u> 2. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant ecology • Botany • Local government 	Cheryl Shippentower represents the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla. She manages ecological restoration and monitoring of range and forestlands on the Umatilla reservation. Her experience conducting daily operations as a plant ecologist will be a valuable asset to the committee.
Teske, Donn President Kansas Farmers Union Wheaton, KS Member Since: 6/7/2012 Term Expires: 12/31/18** Appointment: REPRESENTATIVE	1. Business/Industry 2. Kansas Farmers Union	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commodity production (soybeans, grain sorghum, red clover, wheat, oats) • Organic production 	Representing Kansas Farmers Union. Mr. Teske serves on the Board of Directors for the National Farmers Union, the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education North Central Administrative Council, and the Ogallala Commons Advisory Board. His experience in both state and national organizations allows him to share insights from diverse agricultural perspectives. His involvement with the Ogallala Commons Advisory Board, which focuses on economic and environmental quality, will be an asset to the committee.

Message

From: Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/26/2018 6:46:33 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: Potato slides
Attachments: National Potato Council Fly-In_2-26-2018.pptx

Attached are the draft slides. Covers background, Reg Reform, WOTUS, PGP, and pesticide registration.

Also, here is the back pocket info on the hydrologic connection notice.

Conduit Theory

- Over the years, EPA has stated in a variety of contexts, but has not finalized through a rulemaking, that releases of pollutants to groundwater with a direct hydrologic connection to a jurisdictional surface water may require permits under the Clean Water Act.
- The courts have treated this issue differently, without providing clear guidance to the regulated community.
- On Tuesday, February 13, the agency signed a Federal Register notice seeking input from states, tribes and other interested stakeholders on how pollutants that are released into groundwater from point sources that have the potential to migrate through a direct hydrologic connection into a federally-protected surface water should be treated under the Clean Water Act.
- The agency wants to hear from all stakeholders about a number of key issues, including whether EPA should review and potentially revise or clarify any previous agency statements on this issue.
- The comment period will close May 21, 2018.

Thank you,
---Hema.

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Message

From: Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/17/2018 2:18:47 PM
To: Palich, Christian [palich.christian@epa.gov]; Lyons, Troy [lyons.troy@epa.gov]; Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: Chlorpyrifos Timeline Draft
Attachments: Chlorpyrifos Timeline Draft.docx; ATT00001.htm

Nancy B. Beck, Ph.D., DABT
Deputy Assistant Administrator, OCSPP
P: 202-564-1273

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Beck.Nancy@epa.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Beck, Nancy" <Beck.Nancy@epa.gov>
Date: January 16, 2018 at 10:46:09 AM EST
To: "Jackson, Ryan" <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: Chlorpyrifos Timeline Draft

Message

From: Cory, Preston (Katherine) [Cory.Preston@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/8/2018 2:19:59 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]; Nitsch, Chad [Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov]; Bennett, Tate [Bennett.Tate@epa.gov]; Lyons, Troy [lyons.troy@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Report to the President from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity
Attachments: Rural Prosperity Task Force Members.pdf; Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity.pdf

Rural prosperity report attached!

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:Blake.Rollins@osec.usda.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 9:08 AM
Cc: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@osec.usda.gov>; Bridgforth, Turner - OSEC, Washington, DC <Turner.Bridgforth@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: Report to the President from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity

Good morning,

In advance of the President's address later today at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention, I wanted to send you a PDF of the full report to the President from the Task Force on Agriculture & Rural Prosperity. Additionally, I've attached a letter from Sec. Perdue thanking all of the members of the Ag & Rural Prosperity Task Force for their service.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Link to the report will be available here: <https://www.usda.gov/ruralprosperity>

Thank you,
Blake



Blake Rollins
Director, Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 205-4380

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United States Department of Agriculture



Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity

Secretary Sonny Perdue, Chair



Dear Mr. President,

On April 25, 2017, you established the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity through Executive Order 13790 and appointed me as its Chair. The purpose and function of this Task Force have been to identify legislative, regulatory, and policy changes to promote agriculture, economic development, job growth, infrastructure improvements, technological innovation, energy security, and quality of life in rural America. This report fulfills your request that these recommended changes be identified and presented to you, in coordination with the other members of the Task Force.

In response to your call to action to promote agriculture and rural prosperity in America, the Task Force envisioned a rural America with world-class resources, tools, and support to build robust, sustainable communities for generations to come. Members of the Task Force met, along with staff involved in separate working groups, to set priorities and a framework. Along the way, we held several “listening sessions” across the country, so that we heard directly from the communities that comprise rural America.

With the voice of rural America leading the way, and in close collaboration with local, state, and tribal leaders, more than 21 federal agencies, offices, and executive departments identified over 100 actions the federal government should consider undertaking to achieve this vision. These recommendations were organized around five key indicators of rural prosperity: e-Connectivity, Quality of Life, Rural Workforce, Technological Innovation, and Economic Development.

e-Connectivity for Rural America: In today’s information-driven global economy, e-connectivity is not simply an amenity - it has become essential. E-connectivity, or electronic connectivity, is more than just connecting households, schools, and healthcare centers to each other as well as the rest of the world through high-speed internet. It is also a tool that enables increased productivity for farms, factories, forests, mining, and small businesses. E-connectivity is fundamental for economic development, innovation, advancements in technology, workforce readiness, and an improved quality of life. Reliable and affordable high-speed internet connectivity will transform rural America as a key catalyst for prosperity.

Improving Quality of Life: Ensuring rural Americans can achieve a high quality of life is the foundation of prosperity. Quality of life is a measure of human well-being that can be identified through economic and social indicators. Modern utilities, affordable housing, efficient transportation and reliable employment are economic indicators that must be integrated with social indicators like access to medical services, public safety, education and community resilience to empower rural communities to thrive. Focusing and delivering key federal reforms will enable rural Americans to flourish and prosper in 21st Century communities.

Supporting a Rural Workforce: To grow and prosper, every rural community needs job opportunities for its residents, and employers need qualified individuals to fill those needs. This requires identifying employment needs, attracting available workers from urban and rural centers alike, and providing the workforce with training and education to best fill the available needs. There are many opportunities to partner with local businesses and organizations to identify gaps, to work with all levels of educational institutions to provide career training and development, to fine-tune existing training programs, and to grow apprenticeship opportunities to develop the required workforce. Providing rural communities, organizations, and businesses a skilled workforce with an environment where people can thrive will grow prosperous communities.

Harnessing Technological Innovation: By 2050, the U.S. population is projected to increase to almost 400 million people, and rising incomes worldwide will translate into a historic global growth in food demand. To feed a hungry world, we will need to harness innovation to increase output across American farmlands. In addition to increased crop yields, technological innovation can improve crop quality, nutritional value, and food safety. Innovations in manufacturing, mining, and other non-agricultural industries can enhance worker efficiency and safety. At the core of these developments that will further grow the rural economy is the expansion of STEM education, research, regulatory modernization, and infrastructure. Leveraging these innovations in an increasingly data-driven economy will also require further development of rural data management capabilities.

Economic Development: Infusing rural areas with stronger businesses and agricultural economies empowers America. Expanding funding options to increase the productivity of farmers and ranchers will lead to the enhanced viability and competitiveness of rural America. By promoting innovative farm technologies, energy security, recreation, agritourism and sustainable forest management, communities will be empowered to leverage the bounties of rural America. Investing in rural transportation infrastructure is needed for carrying more “Made in America” products to markets at home and abroad, and boosting our country’s global competitiveness. Reducing regulatory burdens and attracting private capital will support our ultimate mission of empowering Rural America to feed the world.

While other sectors of the American economy have largely recovered from the Great Recession, rural America has lagged in almost every indicator. Your charge to identify and recommend a pathway back to prosperity for these fellow citizens is one we have taken seriously. The creation of the Task Force and your directives contained in an Executive Order were, after all, not an Executive Suggestion. We are proud to issue this final report on our endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sonny" and last name "Perdue" clearly distinguishable.

Sonny Perdue
United States Secretary of Agriculture
October 21, 2017

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I. The Opportunities of Rural America

I. The Opportunities of Rural America

Rural America includes 72% of the nation's land and 46 million people¹. Rural areas encompass regions that focus on agricultural production as well as places where work is more often found in industries such as manufacturing, mining, and forestry. They include locales that are prosperous and rapidly-growing, locales that are chronically depressed, and everything in between. Rural America is home to many different racial and ethnic demographics and a wide array of economic activities. These residents live in a variety of settings, from counties bordering suburbs to remote and isolated areas.

Rural America has a diverse store of assets to draw upon: abundant land and natural resources; scenic and cultural amenities that attract new residents and visitors alike; a strong entrepreneurial spirit; and people of all ages and occupations. People remain in or move to rural areas for many reasons: to seek an active lifestyle, to take advantage of lower costs of living, to encounter less congestion, to enjoy a slower pace of life, and to more closely connect to nature and recreational opportunities. Many people return to their rural roots to raise children and reconnect with family and friends, filling workforce gaps and bringing needed leadership and professional skills.

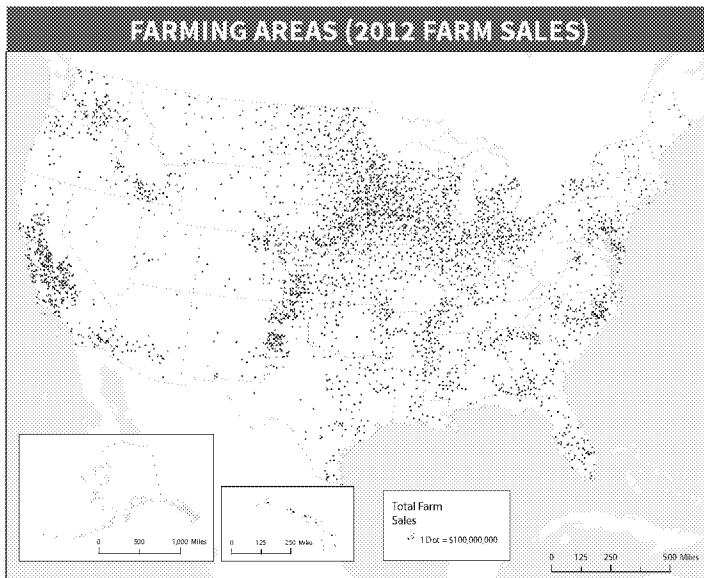
American prosperity and well-being are intrinsically tied to rural America's ability to thrive in the new global economy; to build and attract an educated workforce and expand its population base; and to use its diverse and abundant natural resources to provide food, fiber, forest products, energy, and recreation.

From the forests of Maine to the deserts of Arizona, from the Mississippi Delta to the Upper Great Lakes, rural communities face diverse economic challenges that differ from those found in urban areas. Less dense and relatively remote populations are affected by difficulties in accessing transportation, telecommunications, healthcare, housing, economic development resources, and job opportunities. In many regions, such as the Midwest and Great Plains, these challenges are associated with high rates of young adults leaving the region, resulting in fewer workers and an aging population. Indeed, aging itself poses challenges, such as reducing workforce capacity and increasing the demand for healthcare, housing, and other services geared to the needs of an older population.

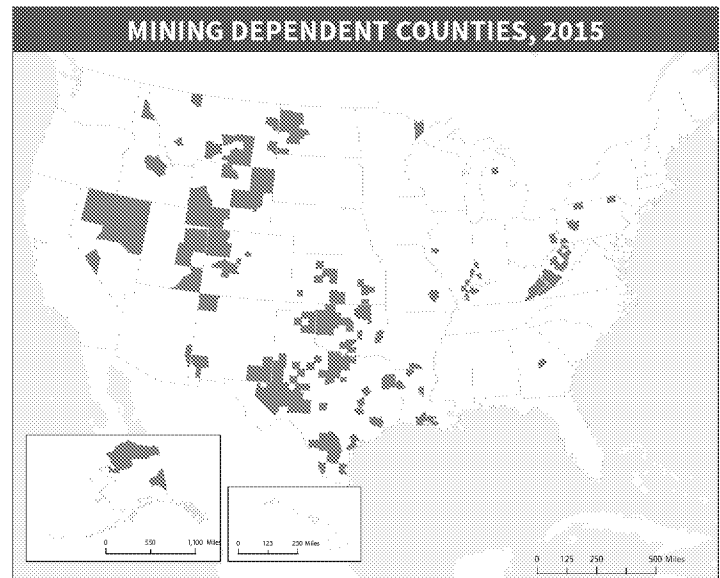
Alongside these challenges, rural America possesses inherent strengths which can be used for enhancing the prosperity of its people and its contribution to the economic well-being of the nation. Today's rural areas are more economically diverse than in the past, reflecting the national trend to greater reliance on service jobs. While traditional rural sectors such as agriculture, mining, and manufacturing employ a smaller percentage of the population than before, they continue to anchor the economies of more than half our counties across the nation. These sectors, disproportionately located in rural areas, exhibit higher-than-average productivity growth.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, throughout this report, rural is defined using nonmetropolitan (nonmetro counties). The terms "rural" and "nonmetro" are used interchangeably. Both terms refer to counties outside of Metropolitan Statistical Areas, defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which include cities of 50,000 or more and counties connected to these cities through commuting. Studies designed to track and explain economic and social changes most often choose the metro and nonmetro classification because it allows the use of widely available county-level data. However, researchers and policy officials often employ multiple definitions to distinguish rural from urban areas.

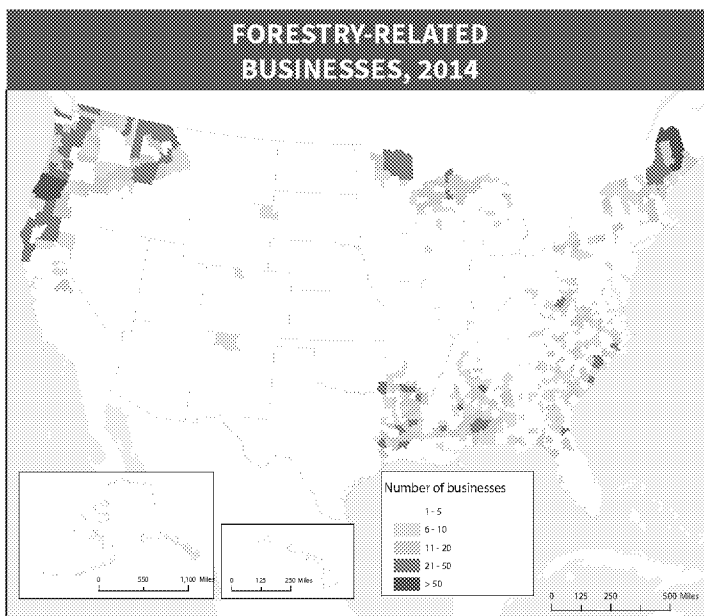
The dominance of traditional rural sectors varies across the country and reflects regions' most productive resources. For example, farm sales (gross sales of all farms in the United States that produce more than \$1000 per year) are concentrated in California, the Upper Midwest, the Great Plains, and parts of the Eastern Seaboard. Mining-dependent counties are primarily in the Mountain West, Great Plains, and parts of Appalachia. Forested lands are predominant in mountainous areas of the east and west. Manufacturing tends to be more concentrated in the eastern half of the United States, particularly the Upper Midwest and the South.



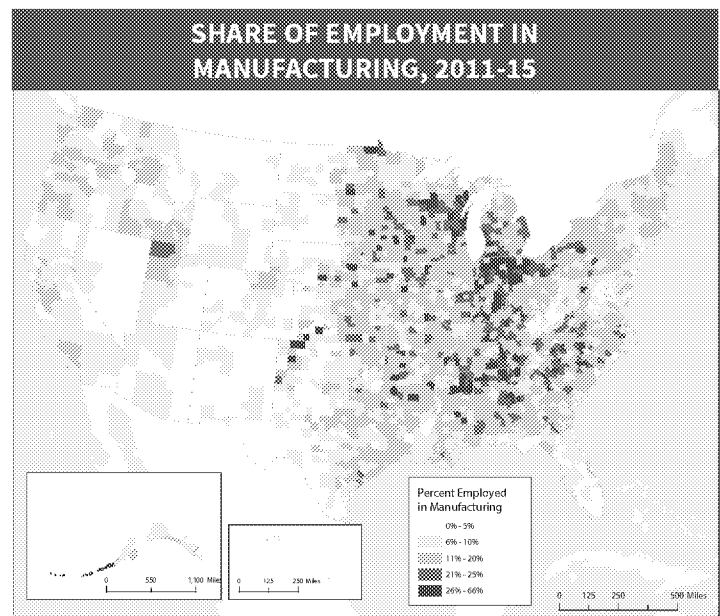
Source: 2012 Census of Agriculture



Source: USDA Economic Research Service Typology Codes, using data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2015



Source: Census Bureau, County Business Patterns, 2014



Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-15

Overcoming the challenges and realizing the opportunities for prosperity in rural America requires action on multiple fronts, including promoting economic development, advancing innovation and technology, ensuring a well-trained and productive workforce, and improving the quality of life in rural communities. Success depends, in large part, on promoting two key drivers of long-term growth and prosperity: broad-based productivity growth in the rural economy and connectivity of rural people to each other, to urban areas, and to the rest of the world.



Achieving increased productivity usually requires innovation and technology, as well as access to capital, infrastructure, and an adequately trained workforce for businesses. In turn, the rural workforce depends on quality of life in rural areas, including the assurance that rural schools and health services are of sufficient quality, either to train productive workers from the local population or to attract employees and their families from other places. Drawing and retaining people and businesses in rural areas promotes economic development, because a large portion of employment growth in rural economies - in retail, healthcare, law enforcement and other public-sector jobs - depends on growth in the

rural population and local consumer demand. Hence, improving quality of life in rural areas is not only an important goal, but is also important to ensuring a productive rural workforce and maximizing rural prosperity.

In our increasingly digital economy, distance between rural economic inputs and markets is less of a barrier to business growth. Expanding availability of high-speed internet or e-connectivity allows rural areas to take advantage of this new reality in addition to broader domestic and international markets. Unfortunately, rural areas remain less connected to reliable high-speed internet today than metropolitan areas and have lower usage rates compared with urban areas. As a result, a wide array of digital services and activities - from e-commerce to telehealth to digital learning - are becoming an increasingly important feature for a prosperous rural life.

Unleashing the potential and ingenuity of rural communities is an integral part of making America great again. This report should serve as a roadmap to guide the federal government towards empowering rural America to take advantage of the many opportunities that can and do exist. Facilitating and supporting access to world-class resources and tools that build robust, sustainable communities for generations to come is required for success.

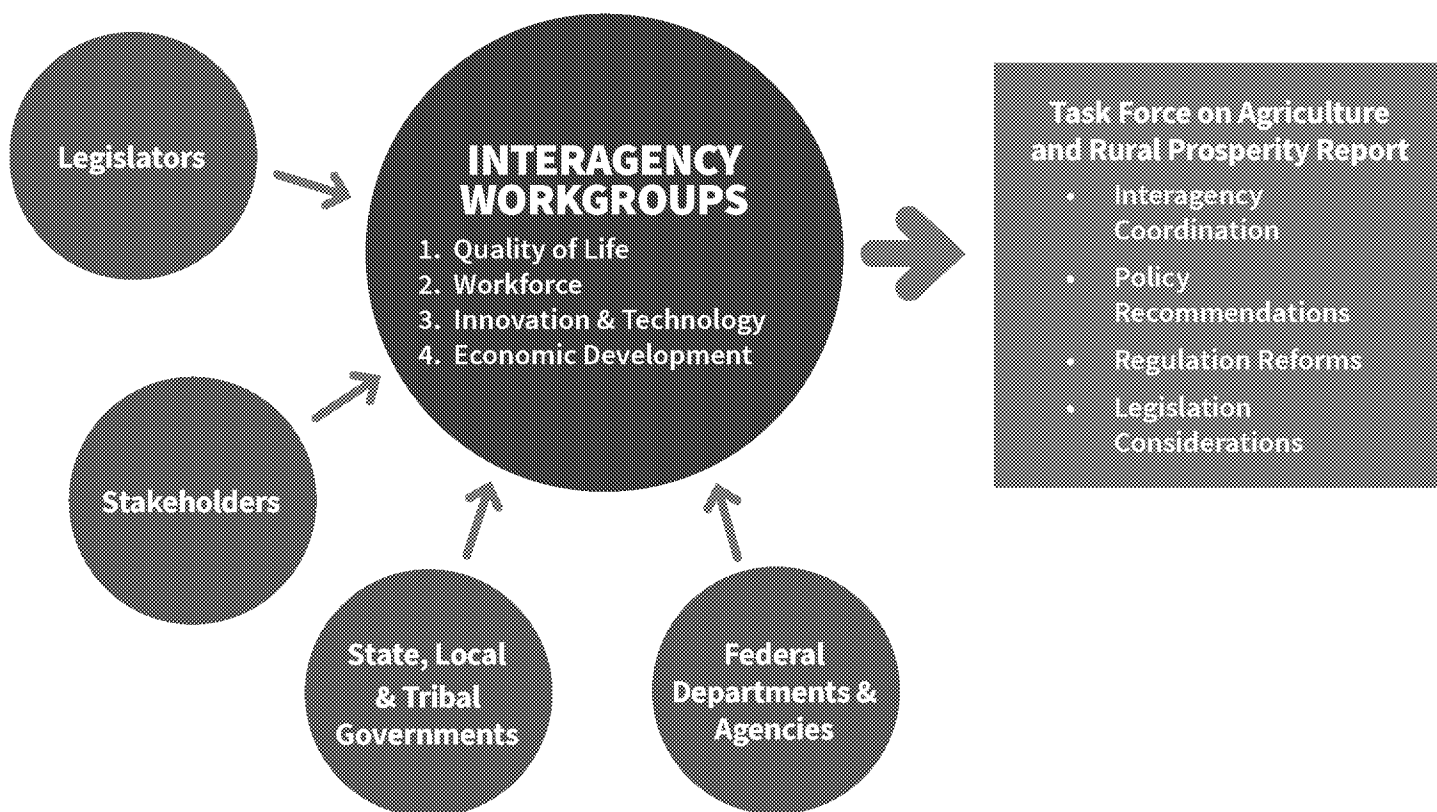


II. Task Force Approach

II. Task Force Approach

The President's Executive Order directed the Task Force to identify key legislative, regulatory, and policy changes to achieve rural prosperity in seven areas: rural American agriculture, economic development, job growth, infrastructure improvements, technological innovation, energy security, and quality of life. To improve customer service and maximize efficiency across the federal government, interagency coordination was also identified as a key place for change.

This report represents a summary of the recommendations gathered by the Task Force through direct engagement with stakeholders, consultations with state, local, and tribal governments, as well as federal agencies with equity in rural America.



The Voice of Rural America

The Task Force found significant guidance from rural stakeholders in the development of this report. Beginning at the inaugural public session of the Task Force held on June 16, 2017 at the Department of Agriculture, and continuing through the comments submitted on a regular basis through an online portal, we heard from the people of America. Additionally, Task Force Chair Secretary Perdue, along with senior federal leadership hosted roundtables in Wisconsin, Georgia, New Hampshire, West Virginia, and North Carolina to hear from partners and understand the concerns of rural citizens.

Our Federal Family

To capitalize on the programmatic specialties spanning the federal government, the Task Force divided into four workgroups comprised of representatives of federal departments, specific agencies, and subject matter experts. Each workgroup focused on a specific topic, including: Quality of Life, Rural Workforce, Innovation and Technology, and Economic Development. Together, they designed a roadmap of goals and strategies to make our country great again through the prosperity of rural America. Collectively, the workgroups identified over 100 recommended potential actions. To inform these recommendations, a robust and in-depth analysis from the Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service was developed to identify the opportunities and challenges for agriculture and rural prosperity in America.

Task Force members include:

- The Secretary of the Treasury
- The Secretary of Defense
- The Attorney General
- The Secretary of the Interior
- The Secretary of Commerce
- The Secretary of Labor
- The Secretary of Health and Human Services
- The Secretary of Transportation
- The Secretary of Energy
- The Secretary of Education
- The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
- The Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission
- The Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy
- The Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy
- The Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers
- The Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
- The Assistant to the President for Economic Policy
- The Administrator of the Small Business Administration
- The United States Trade Representative
- The Director of the National Science Foundation
- The heads of such other executive departments, agencies, and offices as the President or the Secretary of Agriculture may, from time to time, designate

Putting the Recommended Actions to Work

To ensure that the findings of this report have a meaningful impact on rural America, the Task Force urges that work and oversight continue to compel action. Leadership is still required to accomplish many of its goals, including to implement the initial recommendations for which action plans have begun; to move other ideas from conception into action plans; to expand stakeholder participation; to set regional task force solutions; to increase the activities of state, local, and tribal partners; and to advance other suggestions federal partners may make in the future.

The Task Force proposes the following structure for the continuation and implementation of ongoing federal interagency action aimed at improving rural prosperity:

1. **Establish a Federal Commission on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity** – The Commission should be structured similar to the current Task Force. This group of Cabinet and federal executive leaders should meet no less than bi-annually to ensure appropriate interagency coordination and execution of the Task Force actions and future agreed-to activities. Further, the Commission should prepare regular reports to the President, not less than once a year, to demonstrate progress on Commission actions.
2. **Establish a Stakeholder Advisory Council to Advise the Commission** – The Commission should prioritize on-going, robust stakeholder participation from the private sector and non-federal governmental (State, Local & Tribal) interests. The role of the Advisory Council would be to help identify, develop and implement actions that lead to prosperity in rural America. The Advisory Council should meet on a regular basis with the Commission’s Managing Director to provide input on recommendations, action plans and opportunities for federal, state, tribal, local and public private partnerships.
3. **Establish a Managing Director to Oversee the Commission and Advisory Council** – A Managing Director should be appointed and charged with establishing strategic and communications plans for implementing the work of the Commission, including development and execution of action plans. The Managing Director should also be tasked with organizing and managing the meetings and work product of the Commission and Stakeholder Advisory Council. Additionally, the office would develop, execute and expand inter-agency agreements, MOUs and create new agreements as necessary, as well as develop and manage implementation metrics and measures to guide the interagency actions and the success of the Commission.



III. Answering the Call to Action for Rural America

RURAL PROSPERITY

Rural America can make
our country great again.

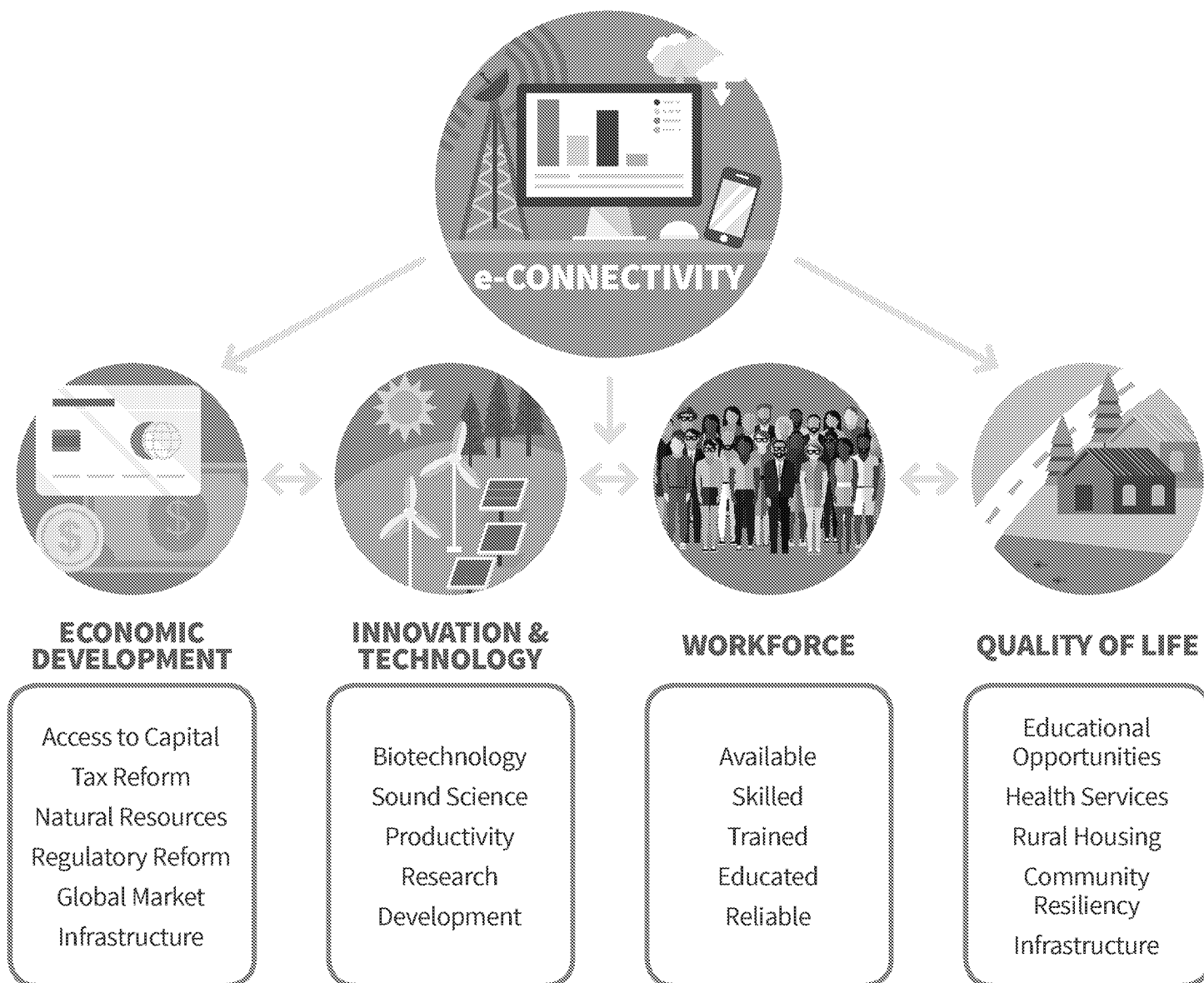
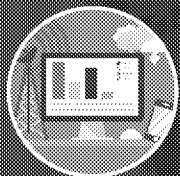




Photo credit: Getty Images



Call to Action #1: Achieving e-Connectivity for Rural America

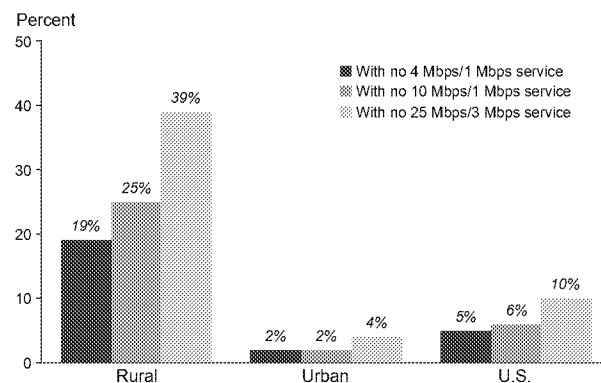
In today's information-driven global economy, e-connectivity is not simply an amenity - it has become essential. E-connectivity, or electronic connectivity, is more than just connecting households, schools, and healthcare centers to each other as well as the rest of the world through high-speed internet. It is also a tool that enables increased productivity for farms, factories, forests, mining, and small businesses. E-connectivity is fundamental for economic development, innovation, advancements in technology, workforce readiness, and an improved quality of life. Reliable and affordable high-speed internet e-connectivity will transform rural America as a key catalyst for prosperity.

The expansion of high-speed, high-capacity internet to connect rural America to the “digital superhighway” of global commerce is a key infrastructure priority. E-connectivity for rural America is essential for ensuring America's economic competitiveness and enabling all Americans to be plugged in to a world of opportunity.

Over the past decade, high-speed internet has been transformational for the U.S. economy. It has facilitated commerce and generated sustainable economic activity. A recent study indicated that the rural broadband industry supported nearly 70,000 jobs and over \$100 billion in commerce in 2015 (Kuttner, 2016). In addition, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that U.S. retail e-commerce sales amounted to \$111.5 billion in the second quarter of 2017, an increase of nearly 5% from the prior quarter and 16.2% year-over-year growth.

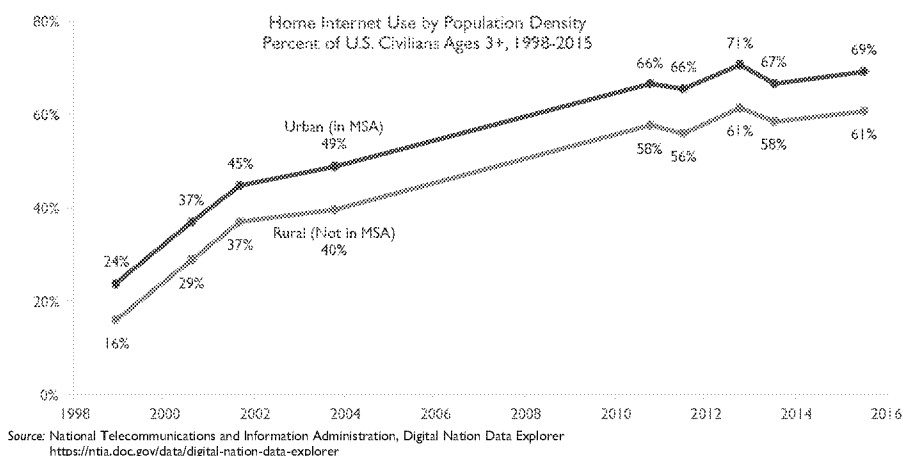
Unfortunately, too many Americans do not experience the benefits of robust internet service. As of 2014, 39 percent of the rural population lacked access to broadband at speeds necessary for advanced telecommunications and data transfer capability (see chart for comparison with urban and national populations). This e-connectivity gap not only prevents rural Americans from participating in the global marketplace but also limits urban Americans

Americans lacking access to fixed terrestrial broadband service at various speeds



Source: Federal Communications Commission, 2016 Broadband Progress Report (statistics as of December 2014).

from accessing the innovations and products of rural America. Additionally, this digital divide means rural American businesses miss opportunities to serve new global customers.



The lack of complete e-connectivity in rural areas can be attributed to many factors. It is particularly challenging and expensive to deploy broadband networks to rural America—namely due to low population density and challenging geography. In addition to these difficulties, broadband providers often face bureaucratic obstacles to building a network, including arduous application processes, lack of access to infrastructure, and burdensome regulatory reviews.

Rural e-connectivity supports economic development for the whole nation through access to capital and global markets, job training and workforce development, innovation and technology and enhanced quality of life. Throughout this report, examples illustrate that robust and reliable e-connectivity is a critical ingredient for rural prosperity.

Connectivity is especially vital for the original “Made in America” industry – agriculture – to increase farm productivity to feed the world. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the U.S. population is expected to rise to almost 400 million by 2050. To supply this number of people with food, American farms need reliable, real-time internet connectivity to oversee operations in the fields, manage finances, and respond to international market conditions. To match world food demand, innovative technologies such as precision agriculture can ensure American farms reach the necessary levels of productivity. Such methods require every part of the farm to be connected to the worldwide web, not just the farmhouse.



Unlocking rural prosperity by promoting e-connectivity for all Americans also provides the opportunity to achieve a higher quality of life through modern teleworking, telemedicine and telehealth, and digital learning. For instance, the shifting digital economy provides new opportunities for rural Americans seeking the ability to work from home. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, from 2003 to 2015, the share of workers doing some or all of their work away from their office increased from 19 to 24 percent nationwide.



High-speed internet access can also address the gap in health services in rural communities. Telehealth and telemedicine allow rural residents to connect to distant healthcare professionals, conduct remote monitoring of chronic medical conditions, and access specialists that may not work in their local health facilities. Remote healthcare through telehealth and telemedicine also reduces the cost of care, improves patient outcomes, and reduces the burden on patients.

E-connectivity also allows rural residents to access a broader range of educational opportunities. Digital learning is growing rapidly and likely to be particularly impactful for more remote rural areas that may not have access to the same educational resources as larger or more urban communities. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the share of undergraduate students taking digital education courses grew from 16 percent in 2003-04 to 32 percent in 2011-12. However, many rural elementary and secondary schools do not have adequate connectivity. The Federal Communications Commission estimates that 16 percent of schools in small towns and 21 percent of schools in rural areas still lack a fiber connection.

Solving the broadband access gap in rural America will require a concerted effort to encourage deployment of new infrastructure and innovative business models that promote capital investments. The development and implementation of other strategic infrastructure systems across the United States was key to ensuring past generations of rural Americans weren't left behind as the rest of the world modernized, including rural electrification, rural telephone service, and the Eisenhower Interstate Highway System. The economic equalizer of our day is high-speed internet to every rural community and production site, connecting rural America's potential to a world of opportunity.

Past efforts to connect rural America have resulted in the allocation of substantial amounts of federal funds for broadband deployment and, while such investments made important contributions, our country has not fully achieved the connectivity needed for success in the economy of today and tomorrow. Although capital investment is one aspect of bridging the divide, far too many government policies stifle network buildout. By streamlining the deployment process, allowing access to existing infrastructure, and reducing barriers to buildout, risk can be reduced and providers can be encouraged to expand networks throughout rural America.

As we modernize and reduce regulations, we should also consider the full range of means to connect rural communities, including satellite, fixed wireless, and cellular networks. These technologies can be less expensive to deploy than traditional wired networks and are rapidly improving in quality. A technology-neutral, service-focused approach to broadband deployment may allow for more rapid and widespread connectivity.

Rural prosperity can only truly be achieved by connecting rural America to high-speed internet. It is critical to act quickly as the need for rural e-connectivity is growing every day. We must also ensure rural America won't be left behind as we move toward next-generation networks like 5G, and emerging technologies like the Internet of Things. Prioritizing e-connectivity for rural America is the key to generating prosperity, investment, and innovation.



Objectives & Recommended Actions

1. **Establish Executive Leadership to Expand E-connectivity Across Rural America** – The Task Force recommends that the Executive Office of the President develop and implement a strategy based on best practices to deploy rural e-connectivity across the nation. The recommended participating offices and agencies include the National Economic Council, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Office of American Innovation, Department of Agriculture, National Telecommunications and Information Administration under the Department of Commerce, the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Education, the Department of Health & Human Services, the Department of the Interior, and other Departments and agencies needed.
2. **Assess State of Rural E-connectivity** – Coordination by the Executive Office of the President of a multi-sector assessment of the current state of affordable rural high-speed internet access, including identification of infrastructure and service gaps. Such a data-driven analysis of service levels, reliability, and affordability should inform the creation of the rural e-connectivity strategy. An analysis of total capital investment necessary for rural e-connectivity should be conducted, including existing federal and non-federal subsidies.
3. **Reduce Regulatory Barriers to Infrastructure Deployment** – Revise federal regulations to encourage investment in reliable, high-speed internet in rural areas, expedite approval and internal review timelines and streamline permitting processes to promote increased build-out of infrastructure. The federal government should coordinate any regulatory reform efforts with those being pursued by the Administration's efforts to reduce regulatory burdens under EO 13771, "Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs."
4. **Assess Efficacy of Current Programs** – Simultaneous with the above actions, the Task Force recommends an assessment of existing federal grants and subsidy programs devoted to or used for deploying e-connectivity. The assessment should include identification of duplicative and overlapping programs throughout the federal government, and recommendations to enhance the coordination of various funding streams to maximize impact.
5. **Incentivize Private Capital Investment** – Encourage free-market policies, laws, and structures at federal, state, tribal, and local government levels to create an environment conducive to investment, including public-private partnerships. Such partnerships can bring innovation and investment of sustainable capital to bridge the e-connectivity gap in the fastest and most affordable manner.





Call to Action #2: Improving Quality of Life

Ensuring rural Americans can achieve a high quality of life is the foundation of prosperity. Quality of life is a measure of human well-being that can be identified through economic and social indicators. Modern utilities, affordable housing, efficient transportation and reliable employment are economic indicators that must be integrated with social indicators like access to medical services, public safety, education and community resilience to empower rural communities to thrive. Focusing and delivering key federal reforms will enable rural Americans to flourish and prosper in 21st Century communities.

Rural America offers opportunities to attain a high quality of life often characterized by abundant natural resources, a less hurried pace of life, and an affordable cost of living. As the modern economy becomes more mobile, the places that Americans choose to live is increasingly influenced by the quality of life in their home communities. For example, over the past 40 years, a desire to live close to natural amenities such as lakes, seashores, mountains, and areas with a moderate climate have driven population growth in many rural regions. This is especially seen in the Southeast, Great Lakes, Mountain West, and Pacific Coast regions. Within these outside areas, such features dramatically enhance the quality of life for rural communities and exhibit a large share of employment and earnings in recreation-related activities. Many of these recreation-based economies were hard hit by the Great Recession, slowing in population growth from 4.6 percent during 2002-08 to only by 1.2 percent during 2010-16 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. However, these areas continue to grow faster than other types of rural areas.

Despite the unique quality of life that some rural communities can provide, others face long-standing and emerging challenges. For example, there are two very different types of rural communities that tend to have a consistently high number of people leaving. One type has high poverty rates – more than 25 percent – and is hindered by low educational attainment and high unemployment. The other type is generally prosperous but tends to be remote, thinly settled, and lacking in scenic appeal for prospective residents or tourists. In general, quality of life deficits appear to be a main drawback for these communities.

In some places, housing affordability has become a major challenge, either because housing costs have risen rapidly or because incomes are insufficient for self-supported housing at market rates. These burdens are increasing among rural renters, in both high-amenity areas and in communities with high poverty rates.

In such parts of rural America, addressing the shortage of local jobs and a lack of connection to those job opportunities will be a major factor in overcoming these challenges.

Transportation is often a challenge for many rural communities as well. According to the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, people living below the poverty level are less likely to own or have access to a personal vehicle to get to work. Compared to other commuters, people below the poverty level are more likely to use lower-cost options such as carpooling, taking public transportation, or using other transportation modes, but such options are less available in rural areas. The Department of Transportation's Federal Transportation Administration supports numerous small town and rural transportation systems in connecting their citizens to jobs, healthcare, and other critical destinations through various programs. Additionally, other federal agencies provide funding for rural transit services for specific trip purposes, such as visits to medical facilities. However, the presence of multiple funding streams often results in multiple networks serving the same rural area. Some states and localities around the nation have instituted methods to optimize federal funding programs into coordinated and unified systems to serve their citizens, yet creating and administering such coordination is an arduous task. As a result, many rural transit services remain expensive to subsidize and unable to fill the transportation needs of rural businesses and citizens.



Photo credit: Getty Images

Rural road safety is another quality of life issue that federal, state, and local governments are working to address. According to the Department of Transportation, more than half of all traffic fatalities in 2014 occurred on rural roads. In addition, the fatality rate per vehicle-mile-traveled in rural areas was 2.4 times higher than the fatality rate in urban areas, though that figure decreased by 24 percent between 2005-14. Moreover, almost two-thirds of drivers and passengers in rural crashes died at the scene in 2014, compared to just 35 percent in urban crashes. Such ratios were due in part due to higher speed crashes and increased distances to first responders and hospitals.

The modernization of built infrastructure for rural utilities is also an important component of quality of life and rural prosperity. This includes the full installation of smart grid technology throughout rural power systems. Rural electric cooperatives have begun deploying fiber optic networks throughout their service areas to meet the current, growing, and future demand for smart grid services, such as demand side management, distributed generation and renewable integration, and smart home technologies, as well as increased grid security. The ability to dynamically manage energy use is critical to ensuring network reliability, enhancing system-wide efficiency and keeping electric rates affordable for rural residents and businesses. The high-speed networks, connecting electric system infrastructure and even direct connections to customer locations, can also provide a platform and catalyst for fiber to rural homes.

Safe drinking water and sanitary waste disposal systems are vital for achieving a high quality of life. Additionally, water infrastructure is essential to many rural industries, e.g., farming, manufacturing, and mining (Kearney et al., 2014). It is also important to households, with more than 86 percent of the U.S. population relying on public water

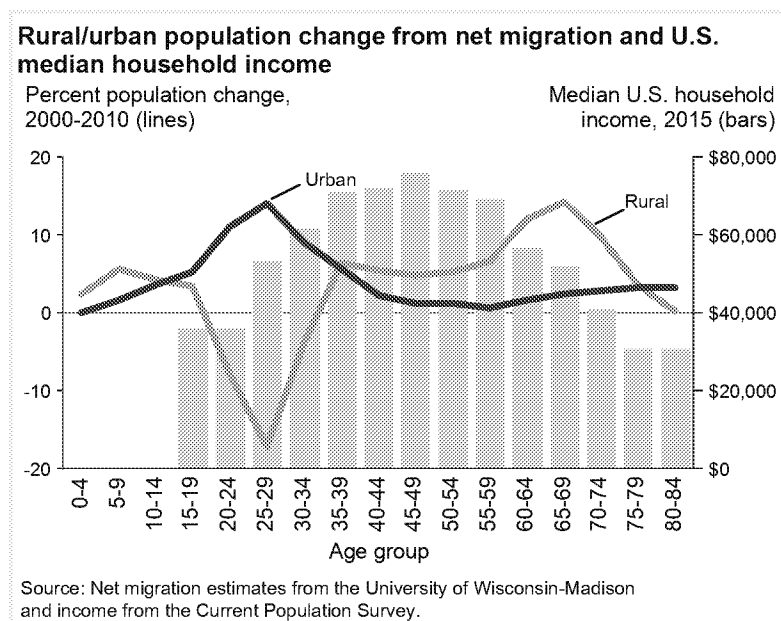


Photo credit: USDA Flickr

supply systems (EPA, 2013). Overall, water infrastructure is increasingly important to making rural areas attractive places to live and as a driver of rural recreation and tourism.

Many poor and remote rural areas also lag in high-speed internet connectivity and easy, fast access to other forms of infrastructure. These often include highways, airports, water and sewer facilities, care centers, housing options, and quality educational facilities. Building water treatment plants, hospitals, schools, homes, transportation systems and other impactful community infrastructure not only creates jobs, but also increases long-term aggregate demand for goods and services within a community as well as contributes to rural prosperity development.

As a byproduct of differing levels of housing and infrastructure, the population of rural America is neither steady nor growing and does not match with its potential. In fact, varying rates of growth and decline in rural America depend on age and other considerations that highlight both the challenges and opportunities related to quality of life in rural communities. In the years after high school, young adults seeking better educational and career opportunities disproportionately leave rural areas for urban destinations. Then, during more advanced periods of personal and professional life, Americans tend to migrate to small cities and rural communities. Therefore, the population loss among those in their twenties is partly regained by adults in their thirties who bring technical and leadership skills back to their rural communities and focus on raising their children.



Such a trend yields a positive migration pattern to rural areas by adults in their late 30s, and also in their mid- 40s and 50s, when median household incomes reach their peak. This pattern further increases among early retirees (ages 65-69), especially focused on areas with features such as natural resource access and healthcare options. The migration of rural residents indicates the critical role that quality of life, access to healthcare, effective schools, and other vital services can play in sustaining rural populations and fostering long-term rural prosperity.

Overall, the rural population is shrinking for the first time on record and it is not just due to the migration of young adults to urban areas.

Fewer births, increased mortality among working-age adults, and an aging population are health factors that are driving numerous other aspects of rural social and economic life. For example, many communities are challenged in terms of access to medical services and primary care due to their relative remoteness from population centers. The recent rise in rural mortality rates among adults ages 35-54 can be tied to a dramatic increase in mortality from natural causes - e.g., heart, liver, and respiratory diseases, or cancer - and to the opioid epidemic.

While the opioid epidemic affects both rural and urban areas, the rise in natural cause mortality is largely a rural problem and represents a growing threat to quality of life and rural prosperity. If these trends are left unaddressed, the rural population will not only continue to decline but the dependency ratio will increase.

As a result, the number of people likely to be not working (children and retirees) will overwhelm the number of people who are likely to be wage earners (working-age adults) and it will become increasingly difficult to achieve a high quality of life.

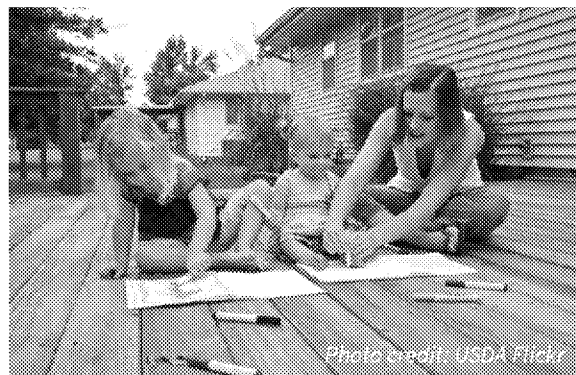
Objectives & Recommended Actions

1. **Advance Educational Opportunities** – Create a strategy for public-private partnerships to complete the connection of all rural Pre-K through Grade 12 and Community/Technical Colleges to high-speed, high-capacity internet to maximize the use of digital learning, especially the deployment of curricula for STEM subjects most relevant to rural economies such as agriculture, manufacturing, military, and business. These opportunities should include the Department of Agriculture, Department of Labor, and Department of Education, and other pertinent agencies aligning on implementation along with key stakeholders. A primary activity should be conducting outreach and designing the optimal set of roles for various government agencies and private sector organizations.



2. **Modernize Healthcare Access** – Assure that the policies and roles of the federal government support access to medical treatment facilities, including health clinics, telemedicine, vocational and medical rehabilitation facilities, dental clinics, assisted living, nursing homes and memory care facilities. Better coordination of the sources of capital that support high-need providers in rural areas is needed, including current federal funds and potential new private funds. Implementation of best practices can be identified and facilitated to enhance access to primary care and specialty providers through telemedicine. Improved access to mental and behavioral care, particularly access to prevention, treatment, and recovery resources is vital to address the nationwide opioid crisis and other substance misuse in rural communities. The Task Force recommends a multi-agency approach to align federal policies and programs for rural healthcare modernization within the Department of Health & Human Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Housing & Urban Development, Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture and other related agencies. The objective would be to prioritize actions and streamline current funds and financing tools of federal, state, tribal and local governments, as well as private sector organizations. Within existing resources, a more efficient deployment of current taxpayer resources can more effectively address the rural healthcare needs.

3. **Innovate Options for Rural Housing** – Develop a set of shared best practices for increasing homeownership, reducing homelessness in rural communities, and building robust community infrastructure. Such practices should include recommendations for federal, state, tribal and local action to strengthen investments in rural housing and provide technical assistance. The Task Force recommends options such as the Department of Housing & Urban Development, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Department of Labor, and Department of Education jointly evaluating



federal rural housing policies and programs, and targeting existing resources to best support sustainable housing in rural communities. To optimize rural housing options for the workforce needed in the current and future economies, private sector organizations' resource deployment to rural areas can also be incentivized.

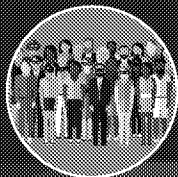
4. **Improve Transportation Options** – Targeted investment within current programs that are outcomes-driven can further address the disproportionately high fatality rate on rural roads, including multi-agency collaboration on policies. States and local transit systems can save tax dollars and more effectively serve rural citizens' mobility needs to job sites, education centers, and healthcare facilities, by streamlining federal policies, programs, and funds that support rural public transit systems. Interagency coordination could include the Department of Transportation, the Department of Health & Human Services, the Department of Labor, and other relevant agencies better aligning policies for rural transit services based on locally-created rural community economic development strategies.
5. **Modernize Rural Utilities** – Advance and expedite the important infrastructure modernization and technology investments that can be prioritized for rural communities' electric power and water systems. Existing resources can be utilized to further invest in rural communities' water infrastructure. For smart grid deployment, enhancements to federal financing programs at the Department of Agriculture can be executed in further conjunction with the Department of Energy. In addition, the Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Agriculture can further coordinate programs on the installation of high-speed e-connectivity in rural communities.



6. **Improve Community Resiliency Planning** – Align federal economic development policy and resources in a manner that enhances rural prosperity. The Task Force recommends that a strategy is built out that includes best practices in site selection, workforce development, utility and transportation infrastructure, and use permitting. It could also encourage community resilience at the local level by requiring that federal planning strategies, such as the Economic Development Administration's Community Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), include identification of strategic industries for rural regions and plans for disaster preparedness and recovery. For example, coordination between the various agencies and programs of the Department of Agriculture can enhance the effectiveness of all federal agencies' efforts to support economic growth and resiliency in rural America, including CEDS, which can be used to drive federal investment in rural areas per these locally-created prosperity plans.



Photo credit: USDA Flickr



Call to Action #3: Supporting a Rural Workforce

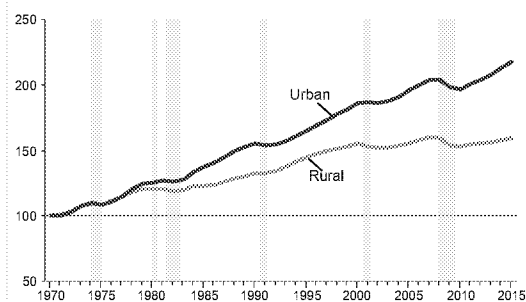
To grow and prosper, every rural community needs job opportunities for its residents, and employers need qualified individuals to fill those needs. This requires identifying employment needs, attracting available workers from urban and rural centers alike, and providing the workforce with training and education to best fill the available needs. There are many opportunities to partner with local businesses and organizations to identify gaps, to work with all levels of educational institutions to provide career training and development, to fine-tune existing training programs, and to grow apprenticeship opportunities to develop the required workforce. Providing rural communities, organizations, and businesses a skilled workforce with an environment where people can thrive will grow prosperous communities.

Since 1970, rural employment has grown slower than in urban areas (60 percent compared with 120 percent in urban areas), according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Rural employment recovery was especially slow after the Great Recession (2007-09), a fact concerning to future rural prosperity. Notwithstanding, there were 19 million workers in Rural America in 2016, which was approximately 13 percent of the U.S. total.

Certain industries, such as agriculture, forestry, mining, and manufacturing, are especially important to rural America and all account for larger shares of employment and earnings in rural compared to urban

U.S. rural and urban employment

Index (1970=100)



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis. Employment is measured as number of jobs; rural/urban status is based on 2013 metropolitan designations. Gray bars indicate recessions.

areas. The Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates that farm employment (both self-employed farm operators and their hired workers) accounted for about 6 percent of all nonmetro employment in 2015, compared to less than 1 percent in metro areas. Additionally, farm employment leads to downstream jobs, which can lead to rural economic growth. While production agriculture hires 1.2 million workers annually according to the U.S. Census Bureau, farmers face instability due to the lack of available American citizens and lawful permanent resident workers to fill these jobs. This has led some farmers to hire illegal foreign labor and the underutilization of the H-2A visa program to hire legal foreign workers. When farmers face this instability, they

often elect to downsize their operations or plant more mechanized commodities, which negatively impacts the local labor market.

Turning to manufacturing, the Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the industry employs a larger share of the nonmetro workforce compared to the metro workforce (11 percent versus 6 percent in metro areas). Additionally, other more consumer-oriented services have similar shares of jobs and earnings in both nonmetro and metro areas, as does the recreation sector.

Lastly, healthcare and the ability to recruit and retain healthcare providers and facilities is also critically important to rural prosperity and unfortunately the slower overall population growth has historically detracted from an overall growth in total healthcare employment.



Within these sectors and others, there is much opportunity for growth in rural America. This is shown by evaluating occupations employing 150,000 or more people in rural counties in 2015. Seven of these 33 occupations were projected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to grow by 10 percent or more nationally between 2014 and 2024 (see table). The top four occupations are all healthcare-related: personal care aides; nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides; licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses; and registered nurses. Their educational requirements range from no formal credential (for personal care aides, who earned a median salary of \$21,920 per year in 2016, and whose employment is projected to grow by 26% nationally over ten years) to a four-year college degree (for registered nurses, who earned a median salary of \$68,450 per year in 2016, and whose employment is projected to grow by 16% nationally over ten years). By contrast, rural occupations serving a national or international market may more nearly mirror the national growth rate. For example, customer service representatives, an occupation projected to grow by 10% in ten years, may be employed in rural call centers serving broader markets. Business accountant and auditor employment is projected to grow by 11% over ten years at the national level, including rural businesses that are tied to national product markets.

Occupations with 150,000 or more rural workers and with projected national growth rates of 10 percent or higher, 2014-2024.					
Occupation	National Job Growth, 2014-24	National Median Wage, 2016	Education Required	Experience Required	On-The-Job Training Required
Personal care aides	26%	\$21,920	No formal credential	None	Short-term
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	24%	\$25,159	High school diploma or equivalent	None	Short-term
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	16%	\$44,090	Post-secondary non-degree award	None	None
Registered nurses	16%	\$68,450	Bachelor's degree	None	None
Construction laborers	13%	\$33,430	No formal credential	None	Short-term
Accountants and auditors	11%	\$68,150	Bachelor's degree	None	None
Customer service representatives	10%	\$32,300	High school diploma or equivalent	None	Short-term

Sources: BLS Employment Projections (<https://www.bls.gov/emp/>); Occupational Employment Statistics (<https://www.bls.gov/oes/>); and the 2015 and 2016 American Community Surveys.

Moreover, it is necessary to look globally as a means for job creation. U.S. agricultural exports support output, employment, income, and purchasing power in both the farm and nonfarm sectors. The Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service estimates that in 2015 each dollar of agricultural exports stimulated another \$1.27 in business activity. Additionally, every \$1 billion of U.S. agricultural exports in 2015 supported approximately 8,000 American jobs throughout the economy. Total agricultural exports in 2015 supported 1,067,000 full-time civilian jobs, which included 751,000 jobs in the nonfarm sector, according to the Department of Agriculture.



There are significant opportunities for the rural workforce to prosper and grow, but reviewing available data and identifying gaps to match curricula and training programs are required to best serve employer needs. Successful workforce development strategies strive to create well-educated and skilled individuals whose qualifications meet the requirements of the contemporary economy. Career mapping within educational systems – beginning at K-12 and continuing through higher education – is necessary to help prepare the workforce of the future to fit rural economies. Many rural communities perform

well relative to urban areas in many measures of school quality and in the rate of college attendance among their young adults, which is more difficult to achieve for the most remote rural areas and for those with relatively large shares of low-income residents. Ultimately, strong primary and secondary schools that focus curricula and offer strong career guidance are fundamental to generating a robust and ready workforce needed in rural America.

As we develop the workforce of the future, it is also important to prepare current, available workers to fill both existing and newly created jobs. Higher education is becoming increasingly unaffordable and many colleges and universities fail to help students graduate with the skills necessary to secure high paying jobs in today's workforce. Along with fine tuning available public and private training programs, expanding apprenticeships may enable more Americans to obtain relevant skills and high-paying jobs. Apprenticeships provide paid, relevant workplace experiences and opportunities to develop skills that are valued by employers.

Objectives & Recommended Actions

1. **Connect Rural Skillsets to Jobs of the Future** – Before we can provide suitable resources, we must identify existing job demands, skillset gaps, and community needs. A robust interagency effort is needed to study current gaps and job demands in all sectors to better specialize our educational and training efforts. We recommend that interested agencies complete a study which clearly identifies these gaps. That survey will then be used to promote curricula rationalization methods in K-12 education, secondary educational institutions, and technical training programs. This effort will better link educational and career guidance given at an early age to local economic needs. We must also focus on developing universally adaptable skills that provide flexibility in a rapidly changing environment. This research is the integral first step to best serve rural communities and ensure we are training for jobs that are needed, but also provide an adaptable workforce as new skillset are needed.
2. **Promote and Expand Apprenticeship Programs** – The Task Force identified clear needs in the healthcare and trade industry sectors while rural businesses and communities struggle to find talent

to fill jobs in these sectors. The Task Force recommends that federal agencies promote and assist local businesses in the expansion of apprenticeship programs. In the near term, we support creating an interagency workgroup to identify priorities and develop apprenticeship programs for rural America.

3. **Connect Veterans to Underutilized Training Programs –**

Despite a clear effort to reach these available and talented individuals that are ready and willing to work, programs are not easily accessible and often siloed within the federal agencies; therefore, not maximizing the potential talent lying within this population. The federal government must do better to connect, streamline, and eliminate duplication across the agencies to better reach and serve veterans. We recommend an interagency inventory of available veterans' programs, a focused effort to eliminate duplication by creating a one stop shop for better customer service, and implementing metrics to measure veterans' access and use of training programs.



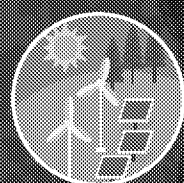
4. **Improve Rural Access to Education and Training –** Job opportunities, training programs and educational materials are not easily accessible by businesses and jobseekers. As we work to eliminate interagency silos, there are ways to better market the resources already available to rural populations using existing resources.

- a. **Improve Interagency Collaboration –** The Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture should strengthen the collaboration between the two departments, their stakeholders and partners to improve access to quality education in rural communities and create opportunity for children in rural America. The interagency coordination will (1) increase investment within existing resources for a wide range of daycare, primary, elementary, and secondary education facilities, including traditional public and charter schools, (2) improve the access of rural communities to resources provided by both Departments, (3) make capital available through USDA for strengthening existing or constructing new educational facilities, and (4) provide capacity building and technical assistance.
- b. **Catalog Federal Training Programs –** Federal government training programs should be catalogued on a single online platform to improve access to these materials and programs.
- c. **Encourage Interagency Use of Federal Infrastructure –** The Department of Agriculture has a broad physical network with local and regional offices across America. We encourage all federal agencies to partner with the Department of Agriculture to house certain educational materials or host periodic training programs in those local offices.

5. **Ensure Access to Lawful, Agricultural Workforce –** Production agriculture is often a key economic driver in rural communities. Many on-farm jobs are seasonal and very physically demanding. Farmers often have difficulty finding American citizen and lawful permanent resident workers to fill these jobs. This can lead some farmers to scramble to find workers to plant, prune, and harvest fruits and vegetables or to tend to livestock. As labor instability grows, seasonal farmers are increasingly turning to H-2A visa program to ensure that their foreign-born workers are working legally in the United States. The inefficiencies and administrative burden of the H-2A program are well-communicated by farmers. The White House is addressing farmers' concerns through an interagency effort to implement policy and regulatory changes to improve the program H-2A program. The goal of this initiative is to ensure that farmers have access to the lawful workforce that is needed.



Photo credit: Getty Images

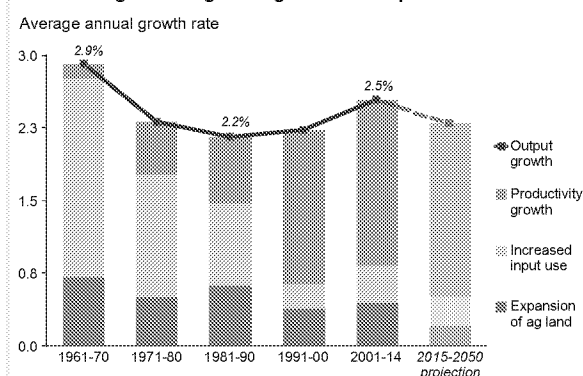


Call to Action #4: Harnessing Technological Innovation

By 2050, the U.S. population is projected to increase to almost 400 million people, and rising incomes worldwide will translate into historic global growth in food demand. To feed a hungry world, we will need to harness innovation to increase output across American farmlands. In addition to increased crop yields, technological innovation can improve crop quality, nutritional value, and food safety. Innovations in manufacturing, mining, and other non-agricultural industries can enhance worker efficiency and safety. At the core of these developments that will further grow the rural economy is the expansion of STEM education, research, regulatory modernization, and infrastructure. Leveraging these innovations in an increasingly data-driven economy will also require further development of rural data management capabilities.

From agriculture to manufacturing to mining, innovative technologies and practices drive long-term growth and prosperity in rural America. The United States is the world leader in agricultural production and technology, and rural America is home to many of the best, and most innovative farmers in the world. Over the past 30 years, U.S. agricultural productivity has increased by nearly 50 percent, and by almost 14 percent in the 21st century (Wang et al., 2017). High productivity has enabled U.S. agriculture to be the world's most dependable source of food surpluses to help feed a hungry world.

Sources of growth in global agricultural output



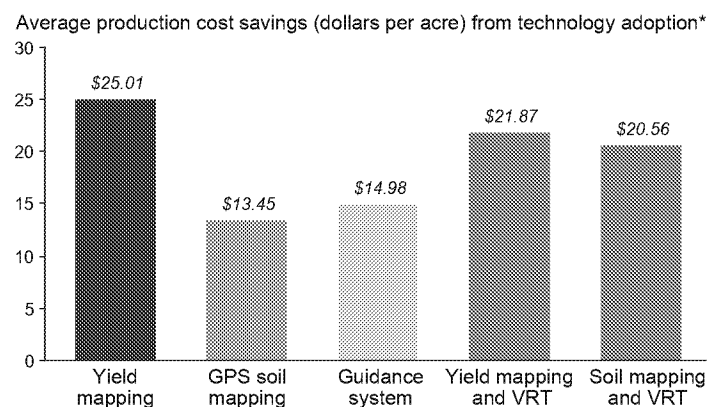
According to the U.S. Census, the U.S. population is projected to increase to 400 million people by 2050. As the world's leader in farm production and innovation, the United States can leverage emerging agricultural technologies and innovative practices to meet the economic opportunity and the humanitarian imperative. Further, while working to meet this challenge in just 32 growing seasons, it is critical that productivity growth not rely on more cultivated land, water, or energy, but instead harness the power of innovation and technology. The U.S. contributes to global food security not only by being a breadbasket, but also through advances in food, agricultural and nutrition sciences, and their world-wide dissemination.

Enabling technological innovation in agriculture will improve the efficiency of the American farmer, increase sustainable use of American resources, and enhance the quality of American agricultural output, all while creating new American jobs and increasing rural incomes. Over the past two decades, American farmers have led high rates of adoption of technologies including automated farm equipment, satellite and aerial imagery, variable rate technology (VRT), genome editing and genomic selection, and high-speed internet.

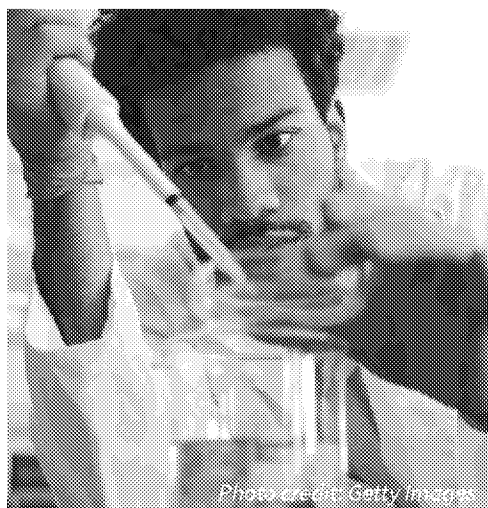
Precision agriculture technologies that optimize input application using VRT are playing an increasing role in farm production. To determine the optimal application of inputs, farmers require data on field conditions to calibrate production practices. Technologies such as global positioning system (GPS) guided machinery, soil and yield mapping, embedded sensor networks, and aerial imagery increase capabilities to collect data with sufficient temporal and spatial resolution. The addition of GPS technologies on farm vehicles has enabled greater automation of routine farm tasks, and provided field operators access to timely, accurate crop data to improve seeding of field crop rows. Integrated networks of soil sensors that provide data on moisture and nitrogen fixation, satellites, and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) equipped with multispectral sensors provide maps of crop yield variability. VRT enables farmers to increase crop yields, while reducing water usage, and minimizing the need for fertilizer, chemicals, and pesticides.

If the ease of use and cost of implementation of precision agriculture technologies can be improved, they have the potential to boost profits for more producers as well as yield environmental benefits. Utilizing key precision farming technologies can produce a 3-18 percent boost in crop yield via targeted fertilizing, planting, spraying, and irrigation, according to Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research. In addition, case studies conducted by AgPixel found there are savings to be gained with better use of products such as nitrogen, herbicide, and water that can add up to \$28 per acre. Such gains could mean the difference between successes or failure for many agriculture-based businesses.

Corn production cost savings from precision agriculture technology adoption



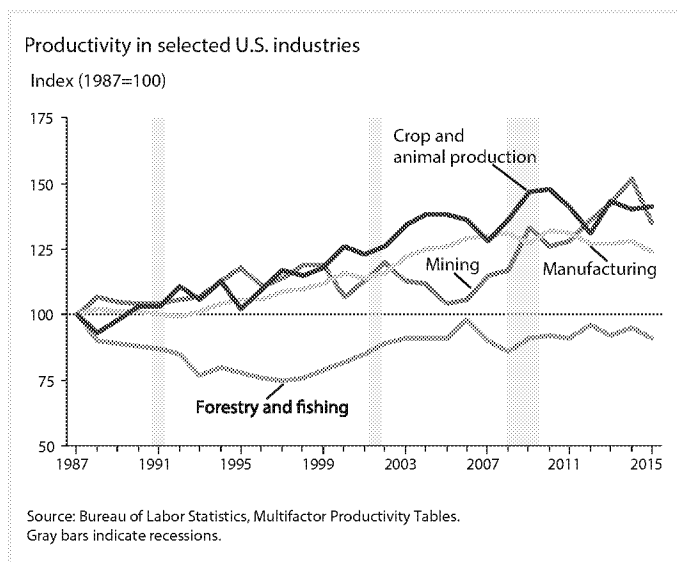
GPS = global positioning system. VRT = variable rate technology.
 *Per acre production costs include expenses for seed, fertilizer, pesticides, paid/unpaid labor, machinery expenses (not capital investments), fuel and repairs, and custom services.
 Source: USDA Economic Research Service model estimates using data from USDA, 2010 Agricultural Resource Management Survey, phases II and III.



Biotechnology is another area of U. S. leadership, being a sector that has driven innovation in fuels, chemicals, manufacturing, and agriculture. In 2016, biotech crops were grown on over 170 million acres in the United States, including over 92% of corn, soybean and cotton total acreage, according to the Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Globally, the biotechnology sector is a driver of the "fourth industrial revolution," and presents an incredible opportunity for American farmers and rural communities to thrive at the forefront of innovation. Scientific advances in biotechnology from universities have helped create world class firms that export superior crop seed and other biotech innovations in world markets. Advancements in genome editing and genomic selection have produced favorable crop and livestock traits,

including resistance to drought, disease, and heat; enhancements to nutritional value; and increased resource efficiency. Those technologies, combined with public and private research and development investments, have enabled U.S. farmers to increase the supply and quality of crop and livestock commodities using fewer resources and at lower costs of production.

Productivity improvement in primary industries can increase the profitability, competitiveness, and growth of upstream manufacturing sectors such as food manufacturing, textiles, and wood products. It can also create jobs in the processing industries - transportation and finance - which are needed to support those sectors. However, productivity growth has slowed over the past three decades, especially in the forestry and fisheries sector. Employment in the mining sector, which accounts for a higher share of employment in rural areas compared to urban centers, has trended downward in recent years. In general, studies have found an urban innovation advantage over rural areas in non-manufacturing sectors, especially service sectors.



Non-agricultural rural industries that have shown high levels of innovation include the telecommunications and commercial electronics industries (Wojan & Parker, 2017). With these markets leading the way in rural innovation, the need for high-speed internet access in rural America is heightened.



Prospects for innovation in agricultural and food industries are evidenced by their attractiveness to private-sector venture capital. Recent years have seen a sharp increase in venture capital directed at these sectors, especially for information technology and biotechnology innovations. According to AgFunder, during 2014-15, venture capital funds invested at least \$6.9 billion in a range of agriculture-related innovations, including precision agriculture and e-commerce food marketing. Most of these venture capital investments have been directed at U.S. firms, but some have involved major investments with firms located in Europe, Israel, China, and elsewhere.

Federal and state research institutes use a variety of means to collaborate with the private sector. Some of the venture capital startups are spinoffs from innovations developed in these laboratories or through joint research efforts with private firms. Other major contributors are the more than 100 federally-funded U.S. Land Grant Colleges and Universities, which are key providers of STEM training as well as innovators across many sectors, and have contributed to U.S. world leadership in many high-technology fields. Innovations emanating from these institutions find their way into industries through scientific publications, patents, direct university-industry partnerships, and STEM-trained graduates. Furthermore, these institutions help create internationally-competitive firms and industries.

Many of the innovative and high-tech advances discussed above emanate from educating rural Americans. Ensuring that all rural Americans have access to educational opportunities is critical to enhancing

productivity and competitiveness throughout America. Educational achievement highly correlates with measures of regional economic prosperity and recent data show that rural Americans are increasingly well educated. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, only 15 percent of rural adults ages 25 and older do not have a high school diploma, and nearly 3 out of 10 rural adults now have an associate's or bachelor's degree or higher. These data suggests rural America is well-positioned to ensure the flow of new technologies and innovations that are required for rural prosperity.



Photo credit: Getty Images

Despite American leadership in technological innovation in agriculture, federal regulations are currently limiting both precision agriculture and biotechnology applications. For example, UAS can provide aerial crop surveys with greater resolution than satellite imagery, and at a frequency desired by farmers. However, the Federal Aviation Administration regulations on commercial UAS operations limit the ability of farmers to conduct these surveys for precision agriculture applications.

On the biotechnology front, better coordination of the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, and Food and Drug Administration regulations on genetic modification of crops and livestock is needed to reduce barriers to commercialization of safe, beneficial and improved genetically engineered entities. Our regulatory system must protect public health, welfare, safety, and our environment while promoting economic growth, innovation, competitiveness, and job creation.

In addition, the growing rural needs for large data collection and processing require the necessary communications infrastructure to handle the quantities of data needed. Big Data is proliferating across all aspects of the global agricultural supply chain and will require policy development that protects farmers' privacy, U.S. companies, and U.S. national security interests, if the information revolution is to be fully realized in rural America.

Objectives & Recommended Actions

1. **Coordinate Federal Farm Production and Food Safety R&D** – To sustainably feed the world, ensure a safe food supply, and keep families on the farm, modern science and technology must be applied. The U.S. needs research and development, as well as a regulatory system that promotes rather than discourages innovation and discovery. The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) should extend the charter of the Subcommittee on Food and Agriculture to coordinate strategies across the federal government to advance innovation in food and agriculture R&D. The Task Force recommends that the subcommittee catalog, coordinate, and leverage ongoing investments in technology to drive innovation in rural America and deliver safe, transformative technologies to farmers and consumers. The subcommittee should also develop an R&D strategy that identifies and creates opportunities for the technology sector to invest in rural communities.
2. **Improve Rural Management of Big Data** – The U.S. government needs a plan and a stronger vision for how big data can be better leveraged to revolutionize the agricultural sector. The NSTC Subcommittee on Food and Agriculture should develop best practices for big data management in agricultural applications.

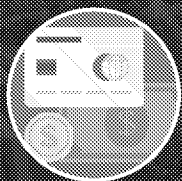
3. **Increase Public Acceptance of Biotech Products** – The Department of State, the Department of Agriculture, and other relevant agencies should develop a communications strategy to increase acceptance of biotech products and open and maintain markets for U.S. farmers abroad. To complement this strategy, the U.S. Trade Representative should initiate interagency deliberations to identify an international strategy that removes unjustified trade barriers and expands markets for American products.



4. **Develop a Streamlined, Science-based Regulatory Policy for Biotechnology** – The federal government should continue efforts to modernize the federal regulatory system for biotechnology products. These efforts will improve transparency, coordination, and predictability of the system and support public confidence by assessing products in a risk-based manner, providing predictable pathways for commercialization. These efforts should be continued to ensure the success of consumers, farmers, and their products. More efficient and effective communication must be employed to build evidence-based confidence in the safety of products for health and the environment. It is critical that these improvements: (1) maintain high standards that are based on the best available science and that deliver appropriate health and environmental protection; (2) establish transparent, coordinated, predictable, and efficient regulatory practices across agencies with overlapping jurisdiction; and (3) promote public confidence in the oversight of the products of biotechnology through clear and transparent public and diplomatic engagement. The Task Force recommends that the Administration:
- a. **Coordinate Federal Regulation of Biotechnology Products** – Reaffirm strong support of the Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology, and the corresponding National Strategy for Modernizing the Regulatory Systems for Biotechnology Products.
 - b. **Coordinate Interagency Action Through the Office of Science and Technology Policy** – Endorse and empower the Biotechnology Working Group, led by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, to continue cooperation across relevant government agencies and improve science-based regulatory approaches directed in 2015 by the White House memorandum to federal agencies, including: updating science-based regulations navigable by small and mid-sized innovators and promoting understanding of how a risk- and science based regulatory approach effectively protects consumers.
 - c. **Expedite Commercialization of Biotechnology Products** – Create a forum led by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy that connects regulators with the funding and R&D agencies to increase awareness and speed the safe commercialization of novel biotechnology products.
5. **Enable Rural Uses of Unmanned Technologies** – Federal regulations currently restrict many agricultural uses of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). The FAA should expedite regulatory waiver approvals for low-altitude UAS operations in rural environments. State and local governments should be enabled to propose increased UAS operations in their jurisdictions to be considered by the FAA for streamlined regulatory waiver approvals. These could include rural communities seeking reduced restrictions on UAS operations for precision agriculture applications and improved production monitoring capacity.



Photo credit: USDA Flickr



Call to Action #5: Developing the Rural Economy

Infusing rural areas with stronger businesses and agricultural economies empowers America. Expanding funding options to increase the productivity of farmers and ranchers will lead to the enhanced viability and competitiveness of rural America. By promoting innovative farm technologies, energy security, recreation, agritourism and sustainable forest management, communities will be empowered to leverage the bounties of rural America. Investing in rural transportation infrastructure is needed for carrying more “Made in America” products to markets at home and abroad, and boosting our country’s global competitiveness. Reducing regulatory burdens and attracting private capital will support our ultimate mission of empowering Rural America to feed the world.

Economic development is enhanced by a supportive environment for business: an environment that encourages innovation and leverages existing resources. Rural areas have especially high concentrations of natural resource-related industries and manufacturing, providing considerable opportunity for meeting productivity goals. Additionally, the large number of baby boomers still to retire represents significant potential growth for many rural places. However, these opportunities may also introduce challenges. The steady decline in the employment shares of farming, mining, and manufacturing over the past half century is due in part to labor-saving productivity. Without substantial growth in the demand for these products, rapid productivity increases may further depress rural employment in these sectors. The challenge for rural economic development is to select strategies that encourage both expanding markets for existing products and exploring possibilities of new products that might require new types of jobs and skills.

Expanding markets through trade is one strategy for generating and sustaining economic growth. Programs and policies that promote overseas market development, such as assistance in understanding foreign market requirements and establishing networks, exist in many sectors and at both the federal and state level. More generally, U.S. and global trade are greatly affected by the growth and stability of world markets, including changes in world population, economic growth, and income. Other factors affecting trade are global supply conditions, changes in exchange rates, domestic support policies, and



Photo credit: USDA Flickr

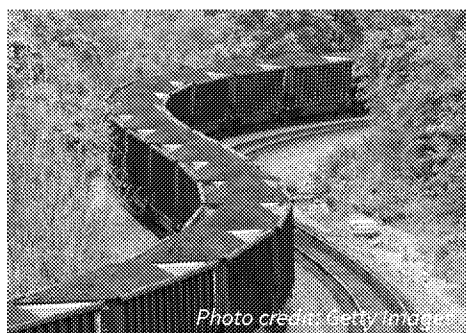
both tariff and non-tariff protections. Trade agreements generally increase trade, alter relative prices, and can change production systems and supply chains. Although increased access and support for export markets can be a growth opportunity for rural America, they can also increase competition from imports. However, the effects of trade may not be distributed evenly across regions or sectors. For example, some manufacturing industries are clustered in rural rather than urban areas. Food manufacturing, machinery manufacturing, and wood product manufacturing jobs account for larger shares of rural manufacturing jobs than urban manufacturing jobs, while computers, electronics, and chemical production account for larger shares of urban manufacturers.

In 2015, American farmers and ranchers relied upon exports for 19 percent of farm income, according to the Department of Agriculture. In 2016, their exports totaled over \$139 billion, making the United States the world's top agricultural exporter. Export success supports livelihoods of many family farms around the country and helps to provide revenue to support schools, public services, small businesses, and millions of jobs for rural America that are outside agricultural industries.



Since the agri-food sector accounts for a larger share of nonmetro employment than of metro employment, growth in U.S. agricultural exports is of greater relative importance to the economic prosperity of nonmetro communities. In 2017, a report using a computable general equilibrium (CGE) model explored the economic effects of a hypothetical 10-percent increase in foreign demand for U.S. agricultural exports (Zahniser et al. 2017). This demand shift was found to result in a 6.7-percent increase in the volume of such exports, worth \$9.7 billion at 2013 prices, and a net increase in total U.S. employment (all economic sectors) of about 41,500 jobs—above and beyond the nearly 1.1 million full-time civilian jobs that U.S. agricultural exports currently support. Some 40 percent of these new jobs would be created in rural (nonmetro) counties. The agri-food sector's share of regional employment is the main determinant of the percentage change in total regional employment in this simulation. Most parts of the agri-food sector (i.e., production agriculture plus food and beverage manufacturing) would see an increase in employment, while employment in other trade-exposed industries - most notably non-food-and-beverage manufacturing and mining - would decrease.

Growth in mining, especially shale gas and oil production, may also offer economic opportunities in rural areas, especially if energy prices rise. While shale gas and oil production has grown rapidly since 2005, growth in some production areas has slowed or reversed due in part to declining prices. However, other areas where production is still expanding may continue to experience rapid growth.



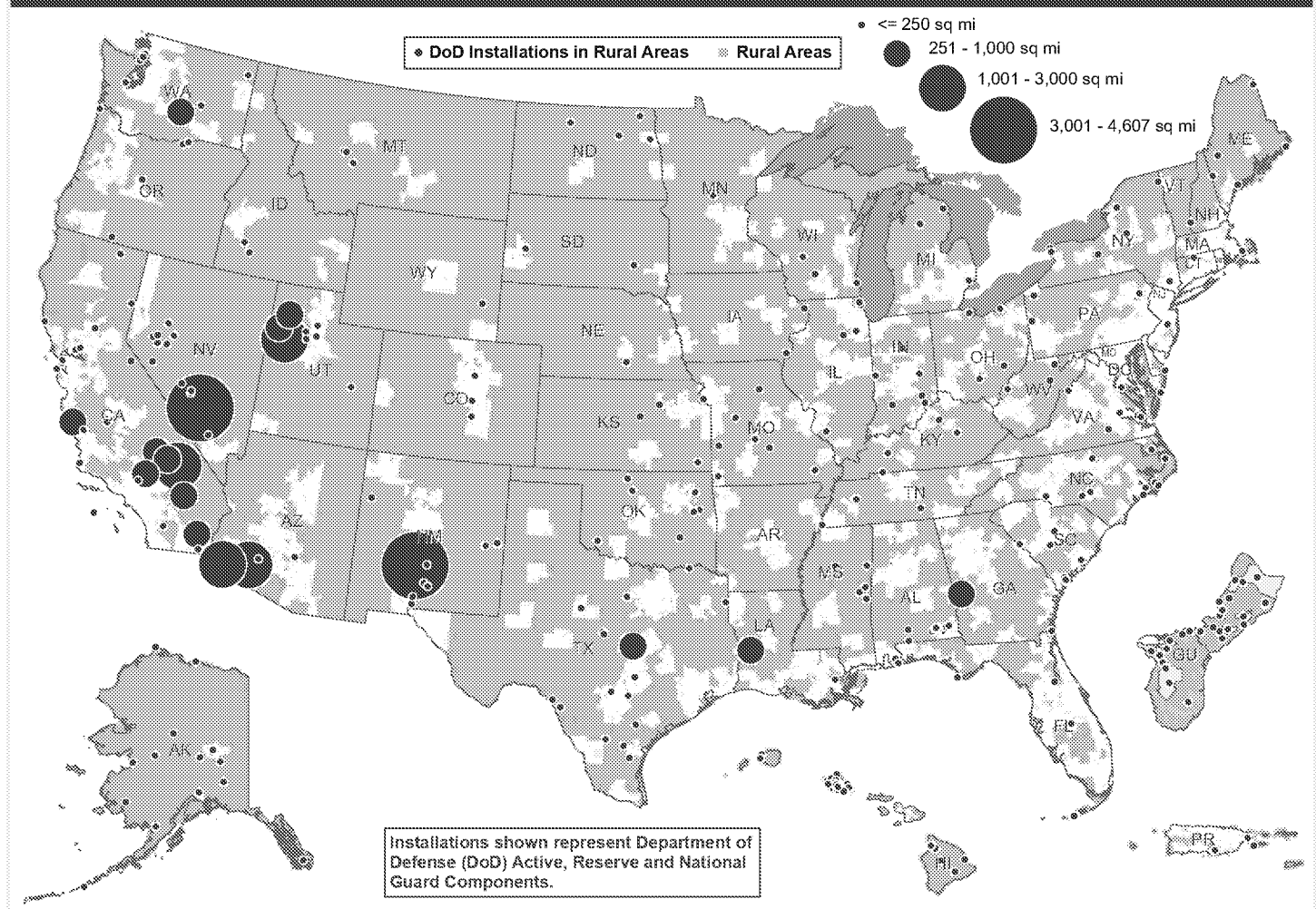
Movement of agriculture, mining, forestry, manufactured, and military freight would not be possible without transportation connectivity coast-to-coast, border-to-border, and between metropolitan areas. Rural America is home to many of the nation's most critical transportation infrastructure assets, including 444,000 bridges, 2.98 million miles of roadways, and 30,500 miles of Interstate highways, according to the Department of Transportation. More than half of all public road miles are locally-owned rural roads. Railroads moved 1.7 million tons of American freight in 2015. By 2045, the United States

Department of Transportation projects total freight on all modes (rail, truck, air, water, pipeline) to reach 25 billion tons, valued at \$37 trillion. The synergetic relationship between transportation investment and

economic development is based on accessible intermodal connections and sufficient infrastructure capacity that can efficiently move freight and people. Transportation also has a broader role in shaping development patterns and impacting location decisions of businesses and people. Rural transportation accessibility and connectivity are critical to transportation-dependent business sectors in rural areas. The nation's rural transportation network provides the first and last link in the supply chain from farm to market, while supporting the tourism industry, enabling the production of energy, and supporting military movements.

Military installations and contract spending of the Department of Defense are other important economic drivers in many rural locations. Rural manufacturing facilities and vendors are buoyed by the Department, providing goods and services for our nation's military forces. According to the Department of Defense, almost half of all their service contract spending occurs in rural areas, to the tune of \$5.4 billion dollars in Fiscal Year 2015. The opportunity to increase such an economic driver is substantial as the total rural share of all types of contract spending was only about \$10 billion of the total \$273 billion.

Department of Defense Installations in Rural Areas (337 total)



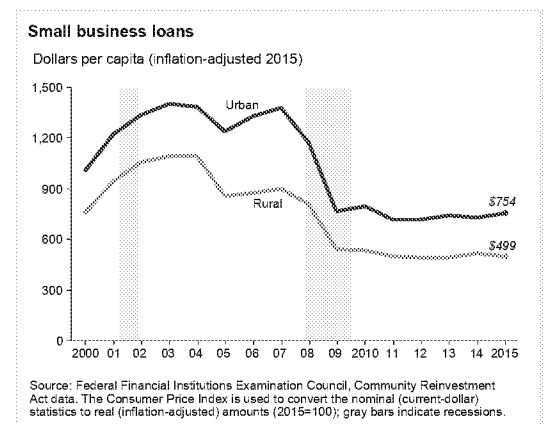
This map is shown at the National Scale. Defense installations that appear to be in Non-Rural Areas at the National Scale are included in Rural Areas when zoomed in to the County Level. Rural Areas are defined as US Counties in Non-Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) that also fall within US Census Tracts that have a Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) Code of 4-10. All data are current as of Fiscal Year 2015 and was acquired / processed from all DoD Components and the Washington Headquarters Services (WHS).



In addition to military installations supported by rural communities around the country, the Department of Defense, in cooperation with the states, maintains over 3,500 National Guard and Reserve centers mostly in rural areas to train military forces and maintain equipment. These centers also serve as local disaster relief and support centers for rural communities. Defense also relies on thousands of vendors and manufacturing facilities in rural areas to serve the defense industrial base by providing goods and services for our nation's military forces. Defense also has over 5,000 formerly used defense sites, mostly in rural areas, awaiting remediation that would allow for eventual economic redevelopment by local communities.

In Fiscal Year 2015, more than 42 percent of Active Duty enlisted personnel came from non-urban areas.² In addition, veterans are overrepresented in rural America by almost 20 percent and can provide valuable and needed skillsets. A huge opportunity exists for rural communities to reach these key populations. According to the American Community Survey, in total, the share of all post-9/11 veterans residing in rural areas in 2015 was 11.9 percent while the share of all pre-9/11 veterans residing in rural areas was 15.5 percent. Veterans are not evenly spread across the rural-urban landscape, either. Many areas with post-9/11 and combined veteran concentrations were near military installations, reserve centers, or training areas, where transitioning veterans are most likely to remain once they leave military service.

Access to capital to support investments in entrepreneurship, innovation, and growth may be more daunting in rural areas where fewer alternatives to conventional bank loans exist, relative to urban areas, which also have easier access to venture capital, angel investing, and emerging crowdsourcing models. Lending of all types to small businesses is consistently lower in rural areas compared to urban areas, and has yet to recover from the Great Recession of 2007-09. Because new, small firms are the major source of employment growth in both urban and rural economies, limited credit availability today may adversely affect near-term and long-term job growth. For example, recent research suggests that smaller, independent manufacturing plants had higher survival rates than larger plants and multi-unit plants, such as branch plants (Low 2017). Of course, there are two sides to the credit market and a decline in the demand for small business credit due to lower new business formation rates may be part of the explanation.



The healthcare sector also provides ample opportunities for rural economic development. For every job in a rural hospital, an additional 0.34 jobs are created in other businesses in the local economy. For every dollar in salary and benefits a rural hospital pays staff, an additional 19 cents in secondary wages and benefits is generated in the local economy (Doeksen et al., 2016). As of September 2017, 60 percent of Health Professional Shortage Areas, as identified by the Department of Health & Human Services, are in rural America and encompass 22.2 million rural residents.

² Non-urban areas defined as Town & Rural segments. These areas contain households that are classified with one of those two urbanicity classifications. The population density scores where they are found range from 0 to 40. This category includes exurbs, towns, farming communities, and a wide range of other rural areas. The town aspect of this class covers the thousands of small towns and villages scattered throughout the rural heartland, as well as the low-density areas far beyond the outer beltways and suburban rings of America's major metros. Households in the exurban segments have slightly higher densities and are more affluent than their rural neighbors. DoD Population Representation report 2015 (<https://www.cna.org/research/pop-rep>) page 125.

Overall, identifying key regulatory reforms, streamlining processes, and improving interagency coordination is required to create conditions in which the rural economy can thrive. For example, the cost of providing or restoring clean water for a community of only a few hundred citizens can be upwards of hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars. Without the financial assistance of the federal government, these projects would be impossible to afford. While federal agencies can often provide most of the funding necessary, either in the form of loans or grants, communities must still provide some portion of the financing. In addition to the cost of the construction, communities must also be able to afford to get their projects through the approval process. Even for small projects, the complexity of the environmental review process alone, requiring the coordination of various state and federal agencies and the services of a professional environmental consulting firm, can cost more than \$20,000. While that may be affordable for a city, for a small rural community this extra cost can be a deal-breaker. That means for some communities, residents must go without even the most basic of public services.

Objectives & Recommended Actions

1. **Access to Capital** – Rural business men and women, entrepreneurs, as well as beginning farmers and ranchers, often have difficulty accessing capital to help them start, grow, and expand their businesses. They are often either too large or too small to qualify for, or gain access to, available loans and lending programs. In addition, Wall Street and Silicon Valley have struggled to access rural markets which are therefore not primed to take their cash. Agricultural lenders tend to operate far differently than venture capital firms and global private investors. With the number of small and community banks declining, we need to help communities identify and develop projects appropriate for private investment. The Task Force recommends that future strategies include:
 - a. **Equity Financing** – Allowing new obligations in federal and state loan and credit programs to be used to meet equity requirements, or a first-loss-position, could help rural communities bring additional financing to the table.
 - b. **Debt Financing** – With renewed focus and goals for agricultural and non-agricultural lending in rural counties by both the Department of Agriculture and Small Business Administration (SBA), SBA is able to provide loans up to \$5.5 million.
 - c. **Bundle/Repurpose Projects and Deals** – A legal/finance vehicle to bundle projects can bring the necessary scale to attract private sector interest and take advantage of economies of scale to deliver cost savings.
 - d. **Regional and State Collaboration** – Projects can draw upon larger revenue streams when approached regionally. There are more financing options and deeper expertise when state wide and regional entities are involved.
2. **Leverage Existing Market Opportunities** – Larger and more strategic public-private sector opportunities should be sought for rural America. Locally-transformative actions create jobs and lift up local economies. Many of these opportunities languish in regulatory uncertainty, or struggle with volatile economic risk profiles. Among the expertise within the federal family, lies the opportunity to make a big difference in the lives of rural families, farmers and ranchers. We should engage the private financial sector and work to identify opportunities already in their pipeline. The federal government could provide guidance to find ways to help capital markets expedite deal execution that quickly benefit rural economies.

3. **Create a Rural Prosperity Investment Portal** – A web based portal enabling rural based investment partnerships – public or private – will serve as a matchmaking tool for project promoters to reach domestic and international investors. The portal can mobilize investments, promote economic growth and create more jobs across rural America. In partnership with the Opportunity Project, the proposed Commission on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity should coordinate with the Department of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture to engage the tech sector through the creation of digital tools that expand rural prosperity, such as an investment portal. The Opportunity Project involves collaboration across government agencies, local governments, tech companies, community organizations, and more, to create new digital solutions that help families, businesses, local officials, and other members of the public access economic opportunity. To date, over 45 digital tools have been created by tech companies through the Opportunity Project.
4. **Build a Better Tax Code** – Rural Americans who work hard every day to provide food, fiber, fuel, manufactured goods, and services for their fellow citizens shouldn't be overburdened by the tax collector. Reforms to federal tax policy are long overdue. Most family farms and rural entrepreneurs operate as small businesses, where the line between success and failure is razor thin. Add to that the complexity and costs of merely complying with the tax code, and their budgets are stretched even tighter. The federal government should build a better tax code to encourage investment, create jobs and help Americans keep more of their hard-earned money.
5. **Increase Agricultural, Forestry and Food Production** – With world food demand expected to double in 40 years, leadership is necessary to meet this economic opportunity and humanitarian imperative. Keeping future generations on the farm is one of the best ways to ensure that the demand for food, fiber, and energy production is met. Family-run operations provide economic and social continuity to their communities across generations, so federal policies should encourage their transfer to family members willing to remain on the farm. For example, key community stakeholders, including grocery stores, distributors, value-chain actors, universities, and more, will soon be able to engage and franchise a community economic development model as well as share success stories. In addition, local, regional, and state leaders will be convened to engage in a discussion on effective methods of economic development and coordination with federal investment as well as to discuss how federal, regional, state and local incentives and regulations can support and/or hinder agriculture in their area. This coordination will result in "Agricultural Community Economic Development" model tool kits being developed and deployed for the Department of Agriculture, rural partners, and farmers.
6. **Remove Regulatory Barriers to Developing and Accessing Natural Resources** – Rural communities are often rich in natural and renewable natural resources, energy sources, and minerals. These communities should be able to responsibly and sustainably access, use, and profit from those local assets without undue federal restrictions and intervention. The Task Force recommends that the following actions be initiated within the federal government: improve interagency coordination to reduce process burden through environmental analysis and decision-making efficiencies; streamline consultation processes using standard decision-making templates and implementing regulatory changes; integrate digital service systems to improve customer service, and reduce delivery of services; develop and test the issuance of permits electronically (e-Permitting); and, develop and implement a modernized 'special use' permitting system, including a web-based ePermit system that offers



convenience and a high-quality user experience to the public. Components of this system are already taking shape between the Department of Agriculture and Department of Interior.

7. **Regain American Energy Dominance** – Rural America is a source of resources that can fuel the nation and the world. Boosting production of all sources of energy from natural gas, oil, coal, nuclear, and renewables is essential to America’s national security interest and rural America’s economy. The federal government must ensure a regulatory environment which can unleash this potential while keeping Americans safe and healthy. This increase in production of domestic fuels will bring jobs back to rural America and promote energy security. We must also continue research and development for new sources of energy to ensure that America leads the world in innovative energy sources. Overall, this boost in energy production will benefit rural communities, boost U.S. tax revenues, and increase our power in the global energy market.
8. **Rebuild and Modernize Rural America’s Infrastructure** – The economic success of future generations and rural communities depends on rehabilitating transportation infrastructure, closing the infrastructure gaps within rural communities, and enhancing connection to metropolitan areas.
 - a. **Increase “Made in America” Outputs** – Increasing “Made in America” output in agriculture, manufacturing, forestry, and mining requires investment in capacity and modernization of rural infrastructure to connect rural production facilities and businesses to nationwide and global commerce. Increased output will result in unleashing the full potential of the U.S. economy and the creation of rural job opportunities, ensuring that rural areas are attractive and prosperous places to live for generations to come.
 - b. **Address Commercial Infrastructure Gaps** – The key infrastructure gaps that need to be addressed are those that carry commerce for rural America, especially in the first and last mile. Transportation infrastructure of all modes – roads, bridges, railways, and waterways – must be upgraded and expanded with the capacity needed to accommodate the additional crops and products that are made in America’s rural economies, including food, fiber, forests, and factory-made commodities and specialty-goods.
 - c. **Develop the “Digital Superhighway”** – The “digital superhighway” for connectivity must be built out to support rural economies’ connection to all applications of global commerce, including support of data transfer needed for the Internet of Things and future deployment of autonomous vehicles. In the short term, better collaboration among the Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Energy, and others will enable the strategic rehabilitation and build-out of the infrastructure needed to carry freight to, within, and from rural production sites in today’s and tomorrow’s economy.
 - d. **Expand State and Local Transportation Capacity** – Empowerment of state and local governments to expand and maintain infrastructure will ensure rural transportation capacity supports local and regional demands for freight flow.



9. **Cutting Red Tape** – To ensure the quickest and most effective deployment of new investments in infrastructure, federal environmental permitting must be simpler and speedier. Regulatory reforms, streamlining processes, and improving interagency coordination must occur to create conditions in which the rural economy can thrive from the farm gate and small business up through the value-added chain. Our federal actions must also be as customer-centric as possible and we must ensure that our regulations and policies are up-to-date, necessary, and effectively achieving their purposes, while simultaneously being as affordable and consistent as possible. If inconsistencies or interferences with reform initiatives, or actions that eliminate jobs or inhibit job creation are identified, we must take steps to lessen or remove their negative impacts. One such action that can be taken in the short term is to fully implement One Federal Decision (OFD) and FAST-41 policies and recommendations within environmental authorization actions. All federal agencies should actively participate in all FAST-41 and OFD working groups to ensure that any lessons learned are applied to improve environmental authorization processes.
10. **Increase Access to Global Market** – Based on fair trade principles, international market access must be aggressively pursued and supported. Physical infrastructure and e-connectivity must be improved and maintained to connect farms and rural communities to the world. American agriculture needs and deserves policies that support and build on this success - by opening markets abroad; by ensuring fair and science-based regulatory treatment for American products of all kinds; and by implementing strong enforcement policies that hold trading partners to their commitments. In the next three years, our administration will take on challenges ranging from high tariffs on dozens of products – including meats, dairy, rice, soy, wheat, fresh fruit and vegetables, and more – to unscientific regulation of biotechnology products and other goods; inappropriate use of geographical indications in ways that shut out American producers of wines, cheeses, and other high-value products; and escalating levels of domestic supports in large emerging economies. We will address these through fair negotiations, use of World Trade Organization and Free Trade Agreement dispute settlement rights, and all other means at our disposal.



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Message

From: Kathy Bergren [Bergren@ncga.com]
Sent: 2/26/2018 6:20:30 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]; Gunasekara, Mandy [Gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov]
Subject: Ag Industry Letter to President Trump on RFS
Attachments: President Trump RFS Joint Ag Industry Letter Feb 26 2018.docx

Mandy and Jeff:

Just wanted to copy you all on the attached letter to President Trump from the National Corn Growers Association, American Soybean Association, American Farm Bureau Federation, National Farmers Union, National Association of Wheat Growers and National Sorghum Producers regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything further from us on these issues.

Thank you,
Kathy

Kathy Bergren
Director, Public Policy
National Corn Growers Association
20 F Street NW, Suite 600

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy	Direct
	Mobile

bergren@ncga.com

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February 26, 2018

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

While millions of Americans are benefitting from a growing economy and from your tax reforms, times are tough in rural America. The U.S. Department of Agriculture projects 2018 net farm income will decline \$4.3 billion, a 6.7 percent reduction from 2017 levels. This represents the lowest net farm income, in nominal dollars, since 2006 and is a 50-percent decline in net farm income since 2013. The heart of America is being left behind when it comes to economic growth and opportunity.

For the past ten years, the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) has been a strong engine driving the rural economy. The RFS, which sets targets for blending ethanol and biodiesel into our nation's fuel supply, created new markets for our farmers, created new jobs in rural America, gave consumers more fuel choices, and improved our nation's air quality. By any measure, the RFS has been successful not only for agriculture, but for our nation. This growth has slowed, however, in the face of past government policies and oil industry opposition.

But while our fellow farmers struggle with declining farm income and a poor agricultural economy, most oil refiners are experiencing a boom. Refiners are reporting surging profits and significant gains from recent tax reforms. The recent bankruptcy claims of an East Coast refiner are not reflective of the state of the refining industry, but rather the hallmark of poor business decisions and a willingness to put investor returns before refinery jobs. Despite the claims of adverse impacts from Renewable Identification Number (RIN) costs, last November, the Environmental Protection Agency concluded that RIN values are not causing economic harm to refiners. The failings of one company should not be used as an excuse for undermining a law that serves hundreds of ethanol and biodiesel plants, tens of thousands of renewable fuel plant workers, and millions of farmers who rely upon the strong market demand created by the RFS.

Mr. President, we appreciate your steadfast support for the RFS since the early days of your campaign. As you meet this week to discuss these issues, we ask that you not entertain proposals that would undermine the purpose and intent of the RFS. There are options to address refiners' concerns that do not undercut the RFS. Any action that seeks to weaken the RFS for the benefit of a handful of refiners will, by extension, be borne on the backs of our farmers.

Sincerely,

Kevin Skunes, President
National Corn Growers Association

John Heisdorffer, President
American Soybean Association

Zippy Duvall, President
American Farm Bureau Federation

Roger Johnson, President
National Farmers Union

Gordon Stoner, President
National Association of Wheat Growers

Don Bloss, Chairman
National Sorghum Producers

cc: Secretary Perdue, Secretary Perry, Administrator Pruitt

ED_004126_00000268-00001

Message

From: Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/17/2018 1:37:11 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]
Subject: Agri-Pulse: Sands Getting Feet Wet in Job as EPA Agricultural Adviser

<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/10469-sands-getting-feet-wet-in-job-as-epa-agricultural-adviser>

Sands Getting Feet Wet in Job as EPA Agricultural Adviser

Steve Davies

Jeff Sands, the agricultural adviser to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, has not lacked for things to do since joining the agency in November.

Sands' first three months have been "a very, very busy time," he told Agri-Pulse in an interview. There have been meetings with farm groups, travel to trade shows, and the often-challenging job of keeping track of EPA activities affecting agriculture.

"The world of agriculture is very big and there's a lot of moving parts to it," Sands said, explaining that there is no "typical day" at the agency.

"It's been three months of getting settled in," said Sands. "We've been meeting with USDA, we've been meeting with state ag directors, we've been meeting with individual producers, we've been meeting with trade associations," all in an effort to determine what's coming down the pipeline that will impact the ag sector.

Sands said that so far, except for "a brief interaction" when he attended a Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee in November, he hasn't met with environmental groups. "I haven't had a request and haven't had the opportunity to reach out," he said, but added that he is "more than happy to meet with anyone."

Sands came to his job with a heavy dose of experience representing agricultural interests. After receiving a master's in public administration in 2011 from Valdosta State University in Georgia (he also has a degree in turf management from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Ga.), he worked for the Agricultural Retailers Association as director of public policy from 2012-2014 before landing at Syngenta, where he was a manager of federal government relations and industry relations for corn.

In both positions, he was a registered lobbyist, working on issues spanning the ag spectrum, including renewable fuels, pesticide regulation, and biotechnology. Before working for the Ag Retailers Association, he handled ag issues for Rep. Tom Marino, R-Pa., who represents a district in central and Northeast Pennsylvania.

"It's been three months of getting settled in," said Sands. "We've been meeting with USDA, we've been meeting with state ag directors, we've been meeting with individual producers, we've been meeting with trade associations," all in an effort to determine what's coming down the pipeline that will impact the ag sector.

Sands said that so far, except for "a brief interaction" when he attended a Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee in November, he hasn't met with environmental groups. "I haven't had a request and haven't had the opportunity to reach out," he said, but added that he is "more than happy to meet with anyone."

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public policy from 2012-2014 before landing at Syngenta, where he was a manager of federal government relations and industry relations for corn.

In both positions, he was a registered lobbyist, working on issues spanning the ag spectrum, including renewable fuels, pesticide regulation, and biotechnology. Before working for the Ag Retailers Association, he handled ag issues for Rep. Tom Marino, R-Pa., who represents a district in central and Northeast Pennsylvania.

Message

From: Kathy Bergren [Bergren@ncga.com]
Sent: 2/12/2018 3:19:56 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Friday NCGA meeting and EPA RFS Triennial Report

Hi, Jeff. Hope you had a nice weekend, despite all the rain.

I know there are a wide range of RFS-related issues under discussion at EPA these days, so I'm not going to get into all of those today. At the same time, I did want to follow back up on this Triennial Report because of the importance we see being placed on it.

When we met in December, I think you said you had not yet had a chance to review the work being done on the report. I just wanted to check back in and see whether you had any opportunity to review the report or track where it is in EPA's process. Our objective is to help ensure the most up-to-date and relevant information on crop production practices, technology and other agriculture considerations is reflected in this important review.

Thank you very much for any update you can provide, and please let me know if there is any opportunity for NCGA and others in agriculture to help inform this report.

Kathy

From: Kathy Bergren
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2017 3:31 PM
To: 'sands.jeffrey@epa.gov' <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: Friday NCGA meeting and EPA RFS Triennial Report

Jeff:

Hope things are going well for you at EPA.

Thank you in advance for taking time to meet with NCGA when our President, Kevin Skunes, is in town later this week. I'll join that meeting along with Kevin and Colleen Willard who handles our crop protection and water quality issues. We can get you a little more info on specifics Kevin is expected to bring up later this week, but from the renewable fuels side, he will likely ask about RVP, as you might guess.

I also wanted to check in with you on EPA's Triennial Report required on the RFS. As referenced in EPA's response to RFS rule comments, I understand the Agency will release the report in early 2018.

While I have obviously not seen the report or any drafts, from a meeting earlier this fall with USDA I also understand that USDA was consulted on the report with regard to agriculture issues. In general, the feedback from USDA was that EPA was not necessarily very receptive to USDA input on the report, including on issues such as changes in crop production practices, land use and conservation.

As EPA's work on the report continues, NCGA wanted to flag these potential concerns in order to ensure the most up-to-date and relevant information on crop production practices, technology and other agriculture considerations is reflected in this important review. Because it has been several years since EPA has issued a Triennial Report, it's clearly going to receive extra attention, and an accurate representation of farmers and their practices is important to NCGA.

In case we don't have time to dive into this issue during Friday's meeting, just wanted to flag this report for you as important to corn growers when it comes to including the best information.

Thanks, and see you Friday.

Kathy

Kathy Bergren

Director, Public Policy

National Corn Growers Association

20 F Street NW, Suite 600

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

bergren@ncga.com

The information in this email, and any attachments, is intended by the National Corn Growers Association for the use of the named individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, proprietary, copyrighted, trademarked, etc. or otherwise confidential. It is not intended for transmission to, or receipt by, any individual or entity other than the named addressee (or a person authorized to deliver it to the named addressee), except as otherwise expressly permitted in this electronic mail transmission. If you have received this communication in error, please delete it without copying or forwarding it, and notify the sender of the error by reply email.

Message

From: Kyle Harris [kharris@corn.org]
Sent: 2/26/2018 5:27:31 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]; Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Meeting Request with Assistant Administrator Wehrum (re: Biogenic CO2 Coalition)

Jeff & Hema,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to make you aware of the meeting our Coalition has with OAR next Tuesday March 6th. Attending for our Coalition will be reps from CRA, as well as Corn Growers, Farm Bureau, and the North American Millers' Association. We would appreciate your attendance as well if that is a possibility.

Happy to answer any questions,

Kyle

Kyle A. Harris

Director, Environmental Affairs/Workplace Safety

Corn Refiners Association

1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Suite 950

Washington, D.C. 20006

Office: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Cell:

From: Dominguez, Alexander [mailto:dominguez.alexander@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 10:53 AM
To: Kyle Harris <kharris@corn.org>
Cc: Keniece Barbee <kbarbee@corn.org>
Subject: RE: Meeting Request with Assistant Administrator Wehrum (re: Biogenic CO2 Coalition)

Perfect.

You are confirmed for a 45 minute meeting on Tuesday, March 6 at 3:00 with Mandy Gunasekara.

Directions and procedures to 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW:

Metro: If you come by Metro get off at the Federal Triangle metro stop. Exit the metro station and go up two sets of escalators to the surface level and turn right. You will see a short staircase and wheelchair ramp leading to a set of glass doors with the EPA logo - that is the William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building, North Entrance.

Taxi: Direct the taxi to drop you off on 12th Street NW, between Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues, at the elevator for the Federal Triangle metro stop - this is almost exactly half way between the two avenues on 12th Street NW. Facing the building with the EPA logo and American flags, walk toward the building and take the glass door on your right hand side with the escalators going down to the metro on your left – that is the North Lobby of the William Jefferson Clinton building.

Security Procedures: A government issued photo id is required to enter the building and it is suggested you arrive 15 minutes early in order to be cleared and arrive at the meeting room on time. Upon entering the lobby, the meeting

attendees will be asked to pass through security and provide a photo ID for entrance. Let the guards know that you were instructed to call 202-564-7404 for a security escort.

Please send me a list of participants and any materials in advance of the meeting. Feel free to contact me should you need any additional information.

Alex Dominguez

Policy Analyst to the Principal Deputy
Office of Air and Radiation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

From: Kyle Harris [<mailto:kharris@corn.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 9:39 AM
To: Dominguez, Alexander <dominguez.alexander@epa.gov>
Cc: Keniece Barbee <kbarbee@corn.org>
Subject: RE: Meeting Request with Assistant Administrator Wehrum (re: Biogenic CO2 Coalition)

Thanks Alex. Lets go with March 6th at 3:00pm. I will be in touch shortly with a list of attendees

Thanks,

Kyle

Kyle A. Harris

Director, Environmental Affairs/Workplace Safety

Corn Refiners Association

1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 950
Washington, D.C. 20006

Office: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Cell: 4

From: Dominguez, Alexander [<mailto:dominguez.alexander@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 9:36 AM
To: Kyle Harris <kharris@corn.org>
Subject: RE: Meeting Request with Assistant Administrator Wehrum (re: Biogenic CO2 Coalition)

Tuesday, March 6th at 3:00 or Friday the 9th at 4:00 would work. I'll put them both on hold now until you are able to confirm.

Alex

From: Kyle Harris [<mailto:kharris@corn.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 12:08 PM
To: Dominguez, Alexander <dominguez.alexander@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Meeting Request with Assistant Administrator Wehrum (re: Biogenic CO2 Coalition)

Alex,

Please advise on getting this scheduled with Mandy. Would any of these times work?

March 5th, After 1:30 PM
March 6th Morning, or late afternoon
March 8th, after 2:00PM
March 9th, after 1:30PM

Thanks Much,

Kyle

Kyle A. Harris

Director, Environmental Affairs/Workplace Safety

Corn Refiners Association

1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Suite 950

Washington, D.C. 20006

Office: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Cell: 4

From: Atkinson, Emily [<mailto:Atkinson.Emily@epa.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 10:58 AM

To: Kyle Harris <kharris@corn.org>; Dominguez, Alexander <dominguez.alexander@epa.gov>

Cc: Keniece Barbee <kbarbee@corn.org>

Subject: RE: Meeting Request with Assistant Administrator Wehrum (re: Biogenic CO2 Coalition)

Hi Kyle,

I am adding in Alex Dominguez who can help to get this scheduled for Mandy Gunasekara and advise on the suggested dates/times.

Emily

Emily Atkinson

Management Analyst/Office Manager

Immediate Office of the Assistant Administrator

Office of Air and Radiation, USEPA

Room 5412B, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20460

Voice: 202-564-1850

Email: atkinson.emily@epa.gov

From: Kyle Harris [<mailto:kharris@corn.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 10:49 AM

To: Atkinson, Emily <Atkinson.Emily@epa.gov>

Cc: Keniece Barbee <kbarbee@corn.org>

Subject: RE: Meeting Request with Assistant Administrator Wehrum (re: Biogenic CO2 Coalition)

Hi Emily,

As I work through availability with my Coalition members, I wanted to bounce some dates/times off you that might work in the coming weeks to meet with Mandy, Clint, and/or David. We have met with Mandy before, and are pleased to do so again. We just want to make sure we are meeting with the appropriate politicals in OAR who work on this biomass issue, if that falls to Clint or David at this point in time, we would like to meet with them.

Please advise on availability for:

March 5th, After 1:30 PM

March 6th Morning, or late afternoon

March 8th, after 2:00PM

March 9th, after 1:30PM

Thanks much,

Kyle

Kyle A. Harris

Director, Environmental Affairs/Workplace Safety

Corn Refiners Association

1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Suite 950

Washington, D.C. 20006

Office: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Cell:

From: Atkinson, Emily [<mailto:Atkinson.Emily@epa.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 9:09 AM

To: Kyle Harris <kharris@corn.org>

Subject: FW: Meeting Request with Assistant Administrator Wehrum (re: Biogenic CO2 Coalition)

Hi Kyle,

Bill Wehrum has reviewed this request and asked that I get in touch with you to arrange a meeting with one of the other members of the OAR IO political team – Mandy Gunasekara, Clint Woods or David Harlow.

If you are interested in meeting with one of the members of the political team, let me know and I can set something up.

Also, if you could provide me with a list of the coalition members who would attend the meeting, it would be appreciated.

Thank you.
Emily

Emily Atkinson
Management Analyst/Office Manager
Immediate Office of the Assistant Administrator
Office of Air and Radiation, USEPA
Room 5412B, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460
Voice: 202-564-1850
Email: atkinson.emily@epa.gov

From: Kyle Harris [<mailto:kharris@corn.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 9:21 AM
To: Atkinson, Emily <Atkinson.Emily@epa.gov>
Cc: Gunasekara, Mandy <Gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov>; Dominguez, Alexander <dominguez.alexander@epa.gov>; Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Subramanian, Hema <Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Meeting Request with Assistant Administrator Wehrum (re: Biogenic CO2 Coalition)

Dear Emily,

Thank you for your note responding to our request to meet with Assistant Administrator Wehrum regarding biogenic CO2 regulation. We are certainly willing to meet with Mr. South and Ms. Lie, though we do not understand how they would be in a position to chart a course for resolution of the biogenic CO2 issue. This involves CO2 from fermentation tanks at stationary sources, separate from combustion.

When time permits, we respectfully request that Mr. Wehrum meet with us to discuss this Obama era exercise in regulatory overreach that is stifling development of promising renewable technologies and the rural economy, as explained in our recent letter to Administrator Pruitt (please find attached).

Thank you for your consideration.

Kyle A. Harris, Esq.
Manager, Environmental Affairs/ Workplace Safety
Corn Refiners Association
www.corn.org
1701 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite 950, Washington, DC 20006
Office: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Cell:



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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Atkinson, Emily [<mailto:Atkinson.Emily@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:24 AM
To: Kyle Harris <kharris@corn.org>
Cc: South, Peter <South.Peter@epa.gov>; Lie, Sharyn <Lie.Sharyn@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Meeting Request with Assistant Administrator Wehrum (re: Biogenic CO2 Coalition)

Hi Kyle,

Bill Wehrum has reviewed your meeting request and asked that the Office of Air Quality and Planning Standards (OAQPS) and Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) to take this meeting on his behalf.

I am copying staff from each office on this note so you can coordinate setting up a meeting.

Emily

Emily Atkinson
Management Analyst/Office Manager
Immediate Office of the Assistant Administrator
Office of Air and Radiation, USEPA
Room 5412B, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460
Voice: 202-564-1850
Email: atkinson.emily@epa.gov

From: Kyle Harris [<mailto:kharris@corn.org>]
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2018 3:18 PM
To: Atkinson, Emily <Atkinson.Emily@epa.gov>
Cc: Dominguez, Alexander <dominguez.alexander@epa.gov>
Subject: Meeting Request with Assistant Administrator Wehrum

Ms. Atkinson,

The Biogenic CO2 Coalition would appreciate the opportunity to meet and brief Mr. Wehrum directly on the regulation of CO2 from the processing of short-cycle herbaceous crops.

I look forward to working with you to get on his calendar in the coming weeks.

Thanks in advance,

Kyle Harris

Kyle A. Harris, Esq.
Manager, Environmental Affairs/ Workplace Safety
Corn Refiners Association
www.corn.org
1701 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite 950, Washington, DC 20006
Office: ()
Cell: ()

<image004.png>

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<image004.png>

Message

From: Bahadori, Tina [Bahadori.Tina@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/6/2018 3:57:27 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
CC: Thayer, Kris [thayer.kris@epa.gov]; Lavoie, Emma [Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov]; Cogliano, Vincent [cogliano.vincent@epa.gov]
Subject: Ag connections -- ammonia risk assessment

Flag: Flag for follow up

Good morning Jeff,

My name is Tina Bahadori and I am the Director of the EPA/ORD National Center for Environmental Assessment where we do chemical assessments. We are currently working on an assessment of ammonia, primarily to provide the Office of Water with values relevant to drinking water exposure. Since an ammonia assessment is likely to be of interest to the agricultural industry, we wanted to check with you to see if you would like a briefing on this work.

Regards,

Tina

=====
Tina Bahadori, Sc.D.
Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment (EPA/ORD/NCEA)
National Program Director, Human Health Risk Assessment (EPA/ORD/HHRA)
RRB Room 71210; Telephone: 202-564-7903; Mobile: Ex. 6

Message

From: Ginah Mortensen [mortensen.ginah@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/22/2018 9:23:13 PM
To: National Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center [agcenter@lists.epa.gov]
Subject: [agcenter] Ag News from EPA's Ag Center!

Here's the latest news from EPA's National Agriculture Center -- we hope you'll find items of interest that will be useful to you and your clients. We encourage you to forward this email to others who may be interested.

This compilation of ag-related news items from EPA HQ and Regional offices is being sent to you, at your request, to notify you that new information has been added to the EPA agriculture web site
<https://www.epa.gov/agriculture>

Below, please see the list of new items on the Ag Center's Newsroom page.
To view the entire text of the News items go to:
<https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agriculture-newsroom>

February 15, 2018

- EPA Settles with Amazon for Distributions of Illegal Pesticides
- EPA Extends Comment Period for Neonicotinoid Risk Assessments

February 12, 2018

- U.S. EPA Awards More Than \$90,000 to Protect Children's Health along the U.S.-Mexico Border
- EPA reaches agreement with Syngenta for farmworker safety violations on Kauai

February 5, 2018

- EPA provides \$1.3 million to states for diesel reduction efforts

February 2, 2018

- EPA Administrator Pruitt Talks Environmental Outcomes in the State of Florida

February 1, 2018

- Reduced Residue Chemistry Data Requirements for Seed-Treatment Uses

January 31, 2018

- EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Signs Endangered Species Act Memorandum with State Agriculture Commissioners
- EPA and Army Finalize "Waters of the United States" Applicability Date

The Ag Center sponsors information for more than 60 Topics on the EPA agriculture web site. To view the entire list of Topics go to:
<https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agriculture-programs-practices-and-topics-interest>

Thank you for your interest in the Ag Center. We welcome your feedback at agcenter@epa.gov

For more information contact the Ag Center:
Ginah K. Mortensen, Director
National Agriculture Center
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

<https://www.epa.gov/agriculture>
agcenter@epa.gov

Message

From: Ginah Mortensen [mortensen.ginah@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/4/2018 7:39:20 PM
To: National Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center [agcenter@lists.epa.gov]
Subject: [agcenter] Ag News from EPA's Ag Center!

Here's the latest news from EPA's National Agriculture Center -- we hope you'll find items of interest that will be useful to you and your clients. We encourage you to forward this email to others who may be interested.

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Below, please see the list of new items on the Ag Center's Newsroom page.
To view the entire text of the News items go to:
<https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agriculture-newsroom>

December 26, 2017

-- Denial of Petition To List Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Under Clean Air Act

December 21, 2017

-- EPA Announces Opportunity to Nominate Additional Experts to Serve as Ad Hoc Members for the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel Reviewing Physiologically-Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Modeling
-- Pesticides; Agricultural Worker Protection Standard; Reconsideration of Several Requirements and Notice About Compliance Dates

December 19, 2017

-- Pesticides; Certification of Pesticide Applicators Rule; Reconsideration of the Minimum Age Requirements
-- EPA Settlement with FMC Corp. Enforces Federal Pesticide Safety Protections

December 18, 2017

-- EPA Releases Draft Risk Assessments for Glyphosate

December 15, 2017

-- EPA Releases Neonicotinoid Assessments for Public Comment

The Ag Center sponsors information for more than 60 Topics on the EPA agriculture web site. To view the entire list of Topics go to:
<https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agriculture-programs-practices-and-topics-interest>

Thank you for your interest in the Ag Center. We welcome your feedback at agcenter@epa.gov

For more information contact the Ag Center:
Ginah K. Mortensen, Director
National Agriculture Center
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<https://www.epa.gov/agriculture>
agcenter@epa.gov

Message

From: Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/16/2018 1:38:00 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Request for Kevin Skunes meeting with Administrator Pruitt

Jeff, what is the protocol/POC for requests to meet with the Administrator?

Hema Subramanian
Special Assistant to the Senior Advisor for Agriculture (detail)
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Phone (202) 564-5041
subramanian.hema@epa.gov

From: Kendra Ricks [mailto:Ricks@ncga.com]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 8:25 AM
To: Subramanian, Hema <Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>
Subject: Request for Kevin Skunes meeting with Administrator Pruitt

Good morning Hema,

Happy New Year! I believe that you and Jeff Sands met with Kevin Skunes, NCGA's president, last month as Administrator Pruitt was unavailable. Kevin thought the meeting was very productive, and enjoyed meeting with you. He would, however, still like to meet with Administrator Pruitt if possible. I know you probably don't manage the schedule, but was hoping you would be able to point me to the right person for this scheduling request.

Kevin will be in town the week of January 29, so I was hoping to get him on the Administrator's schedule. The best time for Kevin would be the afternoon of Tuesday, January 30, but he does have some flexibility if another time that week would work better for Administrator Pruitt.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kendra

Kendra Keller Ricks
National Corn Growers Association

Ex. 6

(office)
(cell)

ricks@ncga.com

The information in this email, and any attachments, is intended by the National Corn Growers Association for the use of the named individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, proprietary, copyrighted, trademarked, etc. or otherwise confidential. It is not intended for transmission to, or receipt by, any individual or entity other than the named addressee (or a person authorized to deliver it to the named addressee), except as otherwise expressly permitted in this electronic mail transmission. If you have received this communication in error, please delete it without copying or forwarding it, and notify the sender of the error by reply email.

Message

From: Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/26/2018 10:42:46 PM
To: Lyons, Troy [lyons.troy@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
CC: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]; Palich, Christian [palich.christian@epa.gov]; Baptist, Erik [Baptist.Erik@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Pallone/Pruitt Transcript
Attachments: Pallone-Pruitt Asbestos Exchange.docx

Thanks.

The disposal issue is one that we are thinking hard about in the program—it gets to the issue of what other authorities exist and what is the current state of play and best way to address the concerns.

We intend to brief the Administrator for his input when we have a proposal ready for him.

Thanks.

Nancy B. Beck, Ph.D., DABT
Deputy Assistant Administrator, OCSPP
P: 202-564-1273
M: Ex. 6
beck.nancy@epa.gov

From: Lyons, Troy
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 5:28 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Cc: Beck, Nancy <Beck.Nancy@epa.gov>; Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>
Subject: Pallone/Pruitt Transcript
Importance: High

Here is the exchange from the December E&C hearing re: asbestos.

Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ex. 6 cell)

Asbestos

Mr. Pallone. I am sorry. I would like to quickly focus on one specific chemical undergoing review right now under TSCA and that is asbestos. Unfortunately, your EPA's work on asbestos, in my opinion, clearly illustrates the problems in how you are implementing the act.

TSCA requires EPA to look at the intended conditions of use for a chemical defined as the conditions under which a chemical is manufactured, processed, distributed, used, and disposed of. But in the scoping document for the asbestos risk assessment, your EPA has announced that you will look only at manufacturing processing and distribution and you will not include the use -- you will completely ignore asbestos that is being used and disposed of in this country.

Let me just explain. The use and disposal of asbestos is the main source of risk from asbestos. If you ignore those things you will produce a risk assessment that fails to capture the risk to workers and ordinary Americans and, in my opinion, will not be scientifically valid and will not be protective of public health.

So my question really is this. Do you think you can just ignore certain things that are inconvenient for the industry? In other words you are saying we will look at the manufacturing

process, distribution, but we won't be looking at how it is used and disposed of in this country. Do you understand what I am asking?

Mr. Pruitt. Yes, absolutely. And I think you raise a very valid concern. In fact, I had a conversation last week about this issue with the chemical office. I think you raise a very, very meaningful concern.

Mr. Pallone. All right. So hopefully, you know, we will see action on looking at the use and disposal; is that correct?

Mr. Pruitt. That is a very important factor that we need to consider and that is something that I have already raised with the office that is overseeing this.

Mr. Pallone. All right. Well, I appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Pruitt. The other concern I have is that now that Brazil has banned asbestos mining all of the asbestos that is going to continue to flow into the United States will come from Russia, okay, because Brazil has banned it. So again my concern is that the EPA is basically protecting Russian mining at the expense, I think, of American workers by saying that, you know, asbestos is going to continue to flow into the country but it can't come anymore from Brazil.

So would you just respond to that the fact that right now Russian mining is the only source for it and we continue to

allow it.

Mr. Pruitt. Well, I think that as you have indicated this factor that hasn't been considered up until this point that is something we are going to do going forward and I think that is very important. I am not really familiar with the import issue that you have raised. If there is an impact we can have on that I look forward to the discussion on how better we can influence that. I don't know what role we would play in that regard, but look forward to that discussion.

Mr. Pallone. Well, I appreciate again your willingness to look at that, Mr. Administrator. Thank you.

Mr. Pruitt. I think the primary issue is what you raised earlier which is the disposal issue I think is very valid and something we need to look at going forward.

Mr. Pallone. All right, thank you.

Message

From: Lyons, Troy [lyons.troy@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/26/2018 10:27:39 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
CC: Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]; Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]; Palich, Christian [palich.christian@epa.gov]
Subject: Pallone/Pruitt Transcript
Attachments: Pallone-Pruitt Asbestos Exchange.docx

Importance: High

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Troy M. Lyons

Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ex. 6 (cell)

Asbestos

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process, distribution, but we won't be looking at how it is used and disposed of in this country. Do you understand what I am asking?

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Mr. Pallone. All right. Well, I appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Pruitt. The other concern I have is that now that Brazil has banned asbestos mining all of the asbestos that is going to continue to flow into the United States will come from Russia, okay, because Brazil has banned it. So again my concern is that the EPA is basically protecting Russian mining at the expense, I think, of American workers by saying that, you know, asbestos is going to continue to flow into the country but it can't come anymore from Brazil.

So would you just respond to that the fact that right now Russian mining is the only source for it and we continue to

allow it.

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Mr. Pruitt. I think the primary issue is what you raised earlier which is the disposal issue I think is very valid and something we need to look at going forward.

Mr. Pallone. All right, thank you.

Message

From: Bill Angstadt [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 1/4/2018 1:44:14 PM
To: greg.johnson@por.usda.gov; Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
CC: Greg Zwicke [greg.zwicke@ftc.usda.gov]; adam.chambers@por.usda.gov; terron.hillsman@md.usda.gov; crichter@thepolicygroup.com; pbredwell@uspoultry.org; Shenk, Kelly [shenk.kelly@epa.gov]
Subject: MD AFO air emissions
Attachments: hb0026f.pdf

USDA & EPA interested parties:

I know your agencies may not follow state legislation, but in the absence of functioning USDA AAQTF or EPA FRRCC, both agencies have expertise in air quality that could be of value to MDE and the MD legislature. The principal need is state as "chicken waste emits ammonia, which is currently unregulated, and it adds nitrogen pollution in the Bay when rainfall washes it from the air".

MD HB0026 (2018 Regular Session): Community Healthy Air Act (attached)

Purpose:

- *Assess certain air pollutants and public health risks associated with large animal–feeding operations in the State;*
- *Requiring the Department to use the protocol created under this Act to assess air pollutants and public health risks associated with large animal–feeding operations in the State;*
- *Requiring the Department to use the assessments made under this Act to evaluate compliance of large animal–feeding operations in the State with certain State and federal laws and regulations.*

I will keep you informed on Committee hearing schedule and expert witnesses. I expect to see CBF air monitoring study shortly.

Thanks,

Bill Angstadt, Chair
Mid-Atlantic 4R Nutrient Stewardship Association

(Member, last convened USDA AAQTF)

[Ex. 6]
angstadtconsult@aol.com

HOUSE BILL 26

M3, M4

(PRE-FILED)

8lr1243
CF 8lr1144

By: **Delegates R. Lewis and Robinson**

Requested: November 15, 2017

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2018

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Healthy Air Act**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Committee on Air Quality; providing for the
4 composition, chair, and staffing of the Committee; prohibiting a member of the
5 Committee from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement
6 of certain expenses; requiring the Committee to create a certain air quality sampling
7 and monitoring protocol on or before a certain date; requiring the protocol to
8 establish the methodology for the Department of the Environment to use to quantify
9 and assess certain air pollutants and public health risks associated with large
10 animal-feeding operations in the State; requiring the Committee to identify certain
11 air pollutants and potential public health risks in preparing the protocol; requiring
12 the Committee to submit the protocol for public comment and peer review with a
13 certain panel of experts; requiring the Committee to review comments and
14 incorporate certain comments into the protocol on or before a certain date; requiring
15 the Department to publish the final protocol on its website; requiring the
16 Department to use the protocol created under this Act to assess air pollutants and
17 public health risks associated with large animal-feeding operations in the State on
18 or before a certain date; requiring the Department to use the assessments made
19 under this Act to evaluate compliance of large animal-feeding operations in the State
20 with certain State and federal laws and regulations on or before a certain date;
21 requiring the Department to report its findings to the Governor and the General
22 Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the Department to post the report on
23 its website; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the
24 Committee on Air Quality and air pollutant monitoring.

25 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
26 That:

27 (a) (1) There is a Committee on Air Quality.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) The Committee consists of the following members:

(i) one expert in regulatory compliance, appointed by the Office of the Attorney General; and

(ii) the following members, appointed jointly by the Dean of the University of Maryland School of Public Health and the Dean of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health:

1. one expert in air pollution sampling and monitoring;

2. one expert in spatial statistics and monitoring;

3. one expert in exposure science;

4. one expert in environmental epidemiology;

5. one expert in toxicology;

6. one expert in human health risk assessment; and

7. one preventive medicine physician.

(3) The members of the Committee shall designate the chair of the Committee from among the members of the Committee.

(4) The Department of the Environment shall provide staff for the Committee.

(5) A member of the Committee:

(i) may not receive compensation as a member of the Committee; but

(ii) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(6) (i) On or before January 1, 2019, the Committee shall create an air quality sampling and monitoring protocol for the collection of air quality and public health data associated with large animal–feeding operations as defined by the Department of the Environment in regulation.

(ii) The protocol shall establish the methodology for the Department of the Environment to use to:

1. quantify the amount of the air pollutants identified under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph that are emitted from large animal–feeding operations,

1 including emissions of:

2 A. ammonia;

3 B. fine particulate matter;

4 C. coarse particulate matter;

5 D. volatile organic compounds; and

6 E. other air pollutants subject to State or federal laws and
7 regulations related to air pollutant emissions from large animal-feeding operations; and

8 2. assess the public health risks associated with air
9 pollutants emitted from large animal-feeding operations in the State.

10 (iii) In preparing the protocol, the Committee shall:

11 1. identify all air pollutants emitted from large
12 animal-feeding operations in the State; and

13 2. identify potential public health risks associated with air
14 pollutants emitted from large animal-feeding operations in the State.

15 (7) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the Committee
16 shall submit the completed protocol for:

17 1. public comment; and

18 2. peer review with a panel composed of experts in the
19 following fields, as selected by the Department of the Environment in consultation with the
20 Committee:

21 A. air pollution monitoring;

22 B. spatial statistics and modeling;

23 C. exposure science;

24 D. environmental epidemiology;

25 E. toxicology;

26 F. human health risk assessment; or

27 G. preventive medicine.

(ii) The experts selected for the peer review panel under item 2 of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph may not be a member of the Committee or an employee of the Department of the Environment.

(8) On or before April 1, 2019:

(i) the Committee shall:

1. review the comments received under paragraph (7) of this section; and

2. incorporate into the protocol any comments determined by the Committee to be appropriate for inclusion; and

(ii) the Department of the Environment shall publish the final protocol on its website.

(b) (1) On or before October 1, 2019, the Department of the Environment shall:

(i) use the protocol created under subsection (a)(6) of this section to assess air pollutants and public health risks associated with all large animal-feeding operations in the State; and

(ii) use the assessments conducted under item (i) of this paragraph to evaluate compliance of all large animal-feeding operations in the State with State and federal laws and regulations related to air pollutant emissions that apply to large animal-feeding operations in the State.

(2) On or before December 15, 2019, the Department of the Environment shall:

(i) report its findings from the assessments and evaluations conducted under paragraph (1) of this subsection to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly; and

(ii) post the report on its website.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2020, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Appointment

From: Atkinson, Emily [Atkinson.Emily@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/3/2018 3:48:49 PM
To: Gunasekara, Mandy [Gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov]; Orlin, David [Orlin.David@epa.gov]; Hengst, Benjamin [Hengst.Benjamin@epa.gov]; Grundler, Christopher [grundler.christopher@epa.gov]; Baptist, Erik [Baptist.Erik@epa.gov]; Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
CC: Argyropoulos, Paul [Argyropoulos.Paul@epa.gov]
Subject: Meet with RFA (Bob Dinneen) and Growth Energy (Emily Sklor) re: possible waiver (Confirmed)
Attachments: Confirmed 1/3/2018 at 3pm: request - Meet with RFA and Growth Energy; attendees
Location: WJC-N 5400 + Video with AA + Ex. 6; Participant Code: Ex. 6
Start: 1/3/2018 8:00:00 PM
End: 1/3/2018 8:30:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

To: Bill Wehrum, Mandy Gunasekara, David Orlin, Ben Hengst, Chris Grundler, Erik Baptist, Jeff Sands

Outside Attendees (in person):

Renewable Fuels Association

- Bob Dinneen
- Matt Morrison
- Bryan Stockton

Growth Energy

- Shailesh Sahay
- Emily Sklor
- John Fure
- Chris Bliley
- Jonathan Martel

American Coalition for Ethanol

- Jonathon Lehman

National Corn Growers Association

- Kathy Bergren

Urban Air Initiative

- Andy Varcoe
- Adam Gustafson

Biotechnology Industries Organization

- Kristin Landis
- Erick Lutt



Confirmed
1/3/2018 at 3pm:...



attendees

Message

From: Michael McKenna [mike@mwrstrat.com]
Sent: 1/3/2018 3:41:38 PM
To: Atkinson, Emily [Atkinson.Emily@epa.gov]
Subject: attendees

Emily -

sorry about the ridiculous number. This is evidently a very popular meeting.

MM

>
> Renewable Fuels Association
> Bob Dinneen
> Matt Morrison
> Bryan Stockton
>
> Growth Energy
> Shailesh Sahay
> Emily Sklor
> John Fure
> Chris Bliley
> Jonathan Martel
>
> American Coalition for Ethanol
> Jonathon Lehman
>
> National Corn Growers Association
> Kathy Bergren
>
> Urban Air Initiative
> Andy Varcoe
> Adam Gustafson
>
> Biotechnology Industries Organization
> Kristin Landis
> Erick Lutt
>

Message

From: Perrin, Rebecca [Perrin.Rebecca@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/26/2017 6:05:33 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Ag Update 70

Jeff,

FYI...

Rebecca Perrin
Region 8 Agriculture Advisor | Office of the Regional Administrator | USEPA
1595 Wynkoop Street | Denver CO 80202 | DL: 303-312-6311 | FAX: 303-312-6882

From: Pete Hanebutt [mailto:pete@ndfb.org]
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 10:55 AM
To: Perrin, Rebecca <Perrin.Rebecca@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Ag Update 70

Rebecca,
We cannot thank you, and the administration, enough for bringing some common sense back to the agency.

And we look forward to the continued trend.

Pete

Peter F. Hanebutt
Director of Public Policy
North Dakota Farm Bureau
4900 Ottawa Street
Bismarck, ND 58503
pete@ndfb.org
(701) 224-0330 office

Ex. 6 cell



From: Perrin, Rebecca [mailto:Perrin.Rebecca@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 11:16 AM
To: Perrin, Rebecca <Perrin.Rebecca@epa.gov>
Subject: Ag Update 70

Hello everyone,

This update includes the following topics:

1. Denial of Petition to List Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Under Clean Air Act Section 111
2. EPA Releases Draft Risk Assessments for Glyphosate
3. EPA Releases (4) Neonicotinoid Assessments for Public Comment (Closes Feb 20, 2018)

4. Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Standards for 2018 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2019
5. Proposed Rule: Periodic Reviews of the Renewable Fuel Standard Program

Have a great week!

Rebecca Perrin

Region 8 Agriculture Advisor | Office of the Regional Administrator | USEPA

1595 Wynkoop Street | Denver CO 80202 | DL: 303-312-6311 | FAX: 303-312-6882

1. Denial of Petition to List Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Under Clean Air Act Section 111. The EPA is providing notice that it has responded to a petition for rulemaking titled "Petition To List Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations under Clean Air Act Section 111(b)(1)(A) of the Clean Air Act, and To Promulgate Standards of Performance Under Clean Air Act Sections 111(b)(1)(B) and 111(d)." The Administrator denied the request in a separate letter to the petitioners. The letter, which provides a full explanation of the agency's rationale for the denial, is in the docket for this action.

For more information: FR Document: [2017-27622](#). Citation 82 FR 60940. Page 60940.

2. EPA Releases Draft Risk Assessments for Glyphosate. The EPA is releasing for public comment the draft human health and ecological risk assessments for glyphosate, one of the most widely used agricultural pesticides in the United States. The draft human health risk assessment concludes that glyphosate is not likely to be carcinogenic to humans. The Agency's assessment found no other meaningful risks to human health when the product is used according to the pesticide label. The Agency's scientific findings are consistent with the conclusions of science reviews by a number of other countries as well as the [2017 National Institute of Health Agricultural Health Survey](#). EPA's human health review evaluated dietary, residential/non-occupational, aggregate, and occupational exposures. Additionally, the Agency performed an in-depth review of the glyphosate cancer database, including data from epidemiological, animal carcinogenicity, and genotoxicity studies. The ecological risk assessment indicates that there is potential for effects on birds, mammals, and terrestrial and aquatic plants. EPA used the most current risk assessment methods, including an evaluation of the potential effects of glyphosate exposure on animals and plants. Full details on these potential effects as well as the EPA's methods for estimating them, can be found within the ecological risk assessment. To read the draft risk assessments and supporting documents, go to www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/draft-human-health-and-ecological-risk-assessments-glyphosate. The draft risk assessments and supporting documents will be available in glyphosate's registration review docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0361 on www.regulations.gov in early 2018. EPA will open a 60-day public comment period for the draft risk assessments, evaluate the comments received, and consider any potential risk management options for this herbicide. EPA is scheduled to publish the proposed interim registration review decision for glyphosate in 2019. The proposed interim registration review decision will outline any proposed mitigation measures to reduce risk, if any are needed. Source: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-draft-risk-assessments-glyphosate>.

3. EPA Releases Neonicotinoid Assessments for Public Comment (Closes Feb 20, 2018). The EPA is releasing preliminary ecological and human health risk assessments for these neonicotinoid insecticides -- clothianidin, thiamethoxam, and dinotefuran -- and a preliminary ecological risk assessment for imidacloprid, assessing risks to birds, mammals, non-target insects, and plants. Preliminary pollinator-only risk assessments for these chemicals were published for comment in 2016 and 2017, and preliminary human health and ecological assessments (for aquatic species only) for imidacloprid were also released in 2017. The Agency is also releasing new cotton and citrus benefits assessments for foliar applications of the neonicotinoids as well as its response to public comments on the [2014 Benefits of Neonicotinoid Seed Treatment to Soybean Production](#). These documents are all being made available in the dockets in advance of the forthcoming Federal Register Notice that will open the public comment period. Once the comment period opens, EPA is especially interested in public comment on the benefits for cotton and citrus, since previous assessments identified potential risks to pollinators. We believe early input from the public will be helpful in developing possible mitigation options that may be needed to address risks to bees. Among the benefits identified, the

neonicotinoids were found to be critical for management of Asian citrus psyllid -- which causes citrus greening, a devastating pest for citrus growers, and for control of plant bugs and stink bugs in cotton. The Agency encourages stakeholders and interested members of the public to provide comments on these assessments in the dockets linked below. The comment period begins when the Federal Register notice is published and will be open for 60 days. EPA may revise the assessments based on information and comments received. The Agency plans to release the final pollinator risk assessments and proposed interim decisions for these chemicals in mid-2018. Source:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-neonicotinoid-assessments-public-comment>.

- [Imidacloprid registration review docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0844](#)
- [Clothianidin registration review docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0865](#)
- [Thiamethoxam registration review docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0581](#)
- [Dinotefuran registration review docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0920](#)

4. Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Standards for 2018 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2019. Under section 211 of the Clean Air Act, the EPA is required to set renewable fuel percentage standards every year. This action establishes the annual percentage standards for cellulosic biofuel, biomass-based diesel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel that apply to gasoline and diesel transportation fuel produced or imported in the year 2018. Relying on statutory waiver authority that is available when projected cellulosic biofuel production volumes are less than the applicable volume specified in the statute, the EPA is establishing volume requirements for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel that are below the statutory volume targets. In this action, we are also establishing the applicable volume of biomass-based diesel for 2019. This final rule is effective on February 12, 2018. For more information: FR Document: [2017-26426](#). Citation: 82 FR 58486. Pages 58486-58527 (42 pages).

5. Proposed Rule: Periodic Reviews of the Renewable Fuel Standard Program. The EPA is required to conduct periodic reviews of certain aspects of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program under the Clean Air Act. This Notification of Availability (NOA) announces the availability of a document titled "Periodic Reviews for the Renewable Fuel Standard Program." The document describes EPA's interpretation of the statutory requirement to conduct periodic reviews, and prior actions that EPA has taken to fulfill its obligations to conduct such reviews. For more information: FR Document: [2017-26422](#). Citation: 82 FR 58364. Pages 58364-58365 (2 pages).

From: Bennett, Tate [Bennett.Tate@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/21/2017 9:07:18 PM
To: Bennett, Tate [Bennett.Tate@epa.gov]
Subject: National Review: Scott Pruitt's Reformation

Scott Pruitt's Reformation

By Kevin Williamson

<https://www.nationalreview.com/magazine/2017-12-31-0000/scott-pruitts-epa-reformation-re-shaping-agency>

The challenge at the EPA is deeper than policy

Des Moines — Scott Pruitt likes coffee. Seriously likes it. He's all riled up and hopped up and caffeinated and talking 100 mph in front of a group of rural electrical co-op officers in Iowa and if we're all telling the truth here seeming just a little bit overstimulated this midmorning in Des Moines when he stops to intone the praises of the glorious steaming cup of coffee he's holding in his hand, obtained from a Scenic Route Bakery down the road. "The problem is that I keep talking, so I don't get to drink it, and I have to keep heating it up." And talk and talk he does, letting his coffee go tepid again, intoning his speech with a lawyer's emphasis on certain words that crop up repeatedly in his description of his mission as the Trump administration's EPA boss: ephemeral and intermittent, for all those drainage ditches and pasture puddles the Obama administration insisted were Waters of the United States — "WOTUS" for short; fanciful, for this and other interpretations of federal statute; and two words that he will repeatedly arrange in opposition to describe what he's up to and the fundamental conflict of visions that is the reason he is (perhaps second after Betsy DeVos) the member of the Trump team who gets most irritatingly up Democrats' noses: stewardship and prohibition.

Stewardship, Pruitt says, is making responsible use of our national blessings, including our natural resources: "Feed the world and fuel the world," he says, over and over. But the Left — and the EPA, which has long been dominated by it — is not interested in stewardship. It's interested in prohibition, in a lot of Thou shalt and a whole heck of a lot more Thou shalt not. "You have two different approaches, two different worldviews, two very different sets of assumptions," Pruitt says.

"One side says we exist to serve creation," he explains. "The other side says creation is there for us to use and manage to the benefit of mankind. Those are competing ideologies, and they drive decision-making. They drive regulation. If you are of the side that says we exist to serve creation, then you have no trouble putting up a fence and saying Do not use. Even though people may starve, may freeze, though developing countries may never develop their economies. That's something they're comfortable doing, and I think that's wrongheaded."

He shies away from characterizing this as a religious point of view but will allow that it has a deep ethical component. And he doesn't always shy away from the religious overtones, either: He says he is "prayerful" that a reasonable bipartisan consensus on the environment might emerge, and he jokes with a friend later in the day that the difficulties of his job put him in mind of the Book of Joshua: "Choose this day whom you will serve."

Seen from that point of view, what Pruitt is up to at the EPA isn't just reform — it's a Reformation. And he'll preach that gospel up and down I-35 at a number of Iowa events on a bright December day, from the electrical co-op convention to a smaller event at a nearby cattle ranch to a public appearance with Kim Reynolds, the charismatic new governor of Iowa, a Republican and the first woman to hold the job.

But you're probably wondering what the head of the EPA is doing on a tour of Iowa, which is one of those places you usually hit when you're running for president, and nobody seriously thinks Scott Pruitt is running for president.

They think he's running for governor of Oklahoma.

Since his swearing-in last February, Pruitt has made a pretty good tour of the country, touching down in more than 30 states and meeting with people he describes in the invariably saccharine language of modern politics as “stakeholders,” which is to say, the people most directly affected by what it is the EPA does all day, about which there has been some dispute — a fair amount of it initiated by Scott Pruitt when he was the attorney general of Oklahoma, in which position he sued the agency on many occasions. There are a few federal agencies — EPA, Education, and Labor prominent among them — toward which the Left takes a proprietary interest, and from the time of Pruitt’s nomination his critics insisted that the fact that he had so often sued the agency in an attempt to rein in its regulatory ambitions was in and of itself disqualifying. The unspoken argument there (usually unspoken — not always) is that anybody who is anything other than a progressive crusader cannot legitimately serve as the administrator of the EPA, because the EPA exists to undertake progressive crusades. The same argument is leveled at DeVos, a frequent critic of federal education policy and of the underperforming unionized monopolies that have made the Cleveland public schools what they are.

Pruitt takes a different view. He is, he says, doing the same thing as EPA administrator that he was doing in litigation against the EPA as attorney general in Oklahoma: trying to get it to do its job, to stay within its legal authority, and to abide by the rule of law. Contrary to the cartoon version of him generally offered up in the press, Pruitt in many ways desires to lead the EPA to take stronger positions on some environmental problems, especially air quality. “We still have a lot of work to do on clean air,” he says. “The problem is that for the past decade we’ve been so focused on CO2 that we’ve let a lot of other things slide.” Regulating the greenhouse gas as “air pollution” was a cherished and ultimately failed priority for the Obama administration, and, in Pruitt’s view, this took attention away from more ordinary concerns, such as industrial emissions and smog. “People come to me and say, ‘Why don’t you do this?’ or ‘Why don’t you do that?’ And some of those I would. But Congress hasn’t given us statutory authority. If you want to change the policy, you have to change the law.”

For example, Pruitt’s buddies in Iowa — he seems to know everybody by name and to have had long relationships with many of the people he’s meeting — would love to see some changes in the ethanol rules, because the corn-fed economy of Iowa is mad for moonshine. The ethanol industry is characterized by an insane mix of subsidies, mandates, and regulations. Most American gasoline contains 10 percent ethanol, but some of it is 15 percent, which retailers can sell most of the year — but not in the summer. Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa, along with three corn-state colleagues, has been holding hostage an unrelated energy measure (relaxing Obama-era methane-emission restrictions on drillers) until he gets his way on ethanol. Pruitt is positioned to cut that Gordian knot by simply issuing a year-round waiver on 15E, as the 15 percent–ethanol–blend gasoline is known. That would make his farm-state friends very happy, and it would also be a potential boon to his oil-and-gas allies back home in Oklahoma.

But he isn’t sure he can do it. The administrator of the EPA is himself an endangered species: a Washingtonian who cares whether he actually technically has the power to do what he wants to do.

“I very much hope we can get there, but it’s a matter of whether the statute permits it or not,” he told a farm-lobby group earlier this year. The issue is still under consideration. And there’s a lot more on the Trump administration’s agenda that’s of keen interest to Iowa ethanol producers. Right at the very moment the Trump administration is threatening to undo NAFTA, the government of Enrique Peña Nieto has moved to allow the sale of 10E gasoline in Mexico, where ethanol had been capped at 5.8 percent of gasoline blends. Mexico’s state-run oil company produces a little bit of ethanol as the result of other petroleum-related activity, but Mexico — which already is the top foreign consumer of U.S. corn — imports much of its ethanol. Guess from where?

It may very well be that Pruitt giveth but Wilbur Ross taketh away.

Pruitt’s in an awkward position as I stalk him around Iowa. He gets a lot of bad press, and even if he laughs it off — “It’s only the New York Times,” he says with a smirk when asked about former New Jersey Republican governor Tom Kean’s column calling for his dismissal — he’s obviously mindful of the damage the media can do. At the same time, his boss is famously jealous of the spotlight, and good press can be a problem for a member of Donald Trump’s administration — especially good press from National Review, a magazine that dedicated a special issue to arguing that Trump is unfit for the office he currently holds. Pruitt, a deeply intelligent man and a natural politician, surely must be mindful of this. But nobody thinks that serving as chief of the EPA is going to be the end of his career in public life — or that he wants it to

be. And he does seem to enjoy the heck out of politicking, the glad-handing and the interviews and the standing ovations (of which there are more than one on this particular day in Iowa) and the posing for pictures: “I’ve always been short of stature,” he says while lining up for press shots with a group of local worthies. “But that’s helpful for a politician — I’m always in the front of the picture.”

Pruitt, who is not yet 50 years old, has been a politician for a long time, having served in the Oklahoma state senate before being elected attorney general. Oklahoma has a part-time legislature, which left him a fair amount of time for his law practice and his great passion outside of politics: baseball. He owned Oklahoma City’s Triple-A affiliate, which was part of the Texas Rangers organization, and he says it was an attractive business: The major-league affiliate picks up most of the payroll, the players and manager, but the local owner gets the sponsorship money and the concessions. When he’s asked by a friendly interlocutor what he wishes the reliably critical news media would report about him, he answers: “That I batted .300 for Kentucky.” I ask for a fact check on that. “I did a little better, sometimes.” A natural politician with roots in the energy business who owned a baseball team? He shrugs off comparisons with George W. Bush. “Other than that . . .”

He didn’t summer in Kennebunkport. He came up hard in Kentucky, with teenage parents and tight finances, and he spent a great deal of time with his grandfather, a Teamster. He played baseball at Kentucky on a scholarship, but that ran out after his sophomore year, at which point he transferred to Georgetown — not the prestigious university in Washington, but a small Baptist liberal-arts college in Kentucky. Around that time, it started to sink in for him that baseball was not going to be his future, and he settled on the idea of law school but took two bachelor’s degrees first. There was an opportunity at the University of Oklahoma law school, and he’s been singing “Boomer Sooner” ever since.

Oklahoma was good to him, and instead of a politician’s blue suit and solid tie he sports a rich guy’s wardrobe — fine dark sports coat, expensive-looking tie, big watch — along with a rich guy’s confidence. But he remembers a very different milieu back in Kentucky, and he seems genuinely ticked when he talks about progressive do-gooders who never think about what their policies would do to the grocery and electric bills of people struggling to keep it together financially.

“The mindset is very arrogant and very elitist,” he says. “And who benefits? The elite. The folks who can least afford those kinds of decisions pay the most. Go look at Ceausescu’s Romania. They regulated the wattage of bulbs and told you when to turn out the lights. You know why? Because they wanted to reserve power for the elite.”

Which is to say, he speaks fluent Trumpkin, and his allies in Iowa are, as is typical with populists, a mix of down-home and serious money. At a local farmhouse, he’s served a very Iowa-looking lunch — meat and potatoes and gravy, rolls and butter, green beans, salad, shortbread, and some local Norwegian-American cream roll that everybody raves about, all of it presented by the blue-jacketed young ladies of the Future Farmers of America, overseen by a caterer wearing a jacket emblazoned with the eternal words of wisdom: Mind your own biscuits and life will be gravy. They say grace, and a Secret Service guy dressed down for the occasion (meaning brown shoes instead of black) hovers discreetly off stage right. There’s more security at the door. A veteran of untold numbers of rubber-chicken political dinners, Pruitt puts his head down and eats like he means it when someone else takes the floor, but he more than holds up his side of the conversation. These people did not come for idle chitchat. His hosts and their guests are far from what people who don’t know much about Iowa farmers would imagine Iowa farmers to be like: They are serious beef and commodity producers who are overseeing millions of dollars in capital and who have detailed questions and complex public-policy concerns. There is a positively Hayekian exchange about policy uncertainty regarding ethanol-volume obligations and interpretive conflicts between statutes and regulations. This is Pruitt’s element, and he respects his hosts enough to forgo pretending that there are easy answers to their concerns or that they’re going to get everything they want — even if he were personally inclined to give the Iowans their way on every jot and tittle, he’s serious about hewing to a conservative interpretation of his legal power.

That’s an ongoing concern. And for that reason, his regulatory-reform agenda is moving slowly. WOTUS and the Clean Power Plan are going to be reformed — there are executive orders to that end — but none of that has actually happened yet, as Pruitt’s EPA slowly works through what its statutory authority is, what’s consistent with the law, and what’s reasonable. As Pruitt points out, it isn’t as though the plan is to replace the current interpretation of WOTUS with

nothing. “We aren’t deregulating,” he says. “We’re regulating in accordance with the law.” The United States is out of the Paris agreement, thanks in no small part to Pruitt’s countervailing influence on the president, who nearly was convinced by his daughter and son-in-law to break his campaign promise to quit the global-warming accord. Pruitt has ended the “sue and settle” process under which the EPA effectively outsourced regulation to activist groups and paid them for the courtesy, and he has barred, as an obvious conflict of interest, parties receiving EPA grants from serving on EPA advisory panels. He is rhetorically sharp, but his administration so far has been far from slash-and-burn.

And that’s worth understanding about Scott Pruitt. His critics may dismiss him as a creature of oil and gas, as an ogre who is willing to see the water and air despoiled in the service of his corporate allies, but he is in fact a true believer. He’s serious about this rule-of-law stuff. He’s the last thing the Left expects to see in a Trump appointee: principled.

Which is not to say he isn’t squirrely. He’s plenty squirrely. After he’s done with his public events, we meet for more of that coffee he was talking about: His tippie is called the “Honey Bee,” and it’s a concoction of espresso, honey, and cinnamon. “You’re going to like this,” he promises. He talks easily and with great command of the relevant policy details but is extraordinarily guarded about many things. Strangely, he refuses to answer the question when I ask him whether he actively sought his current job as administrator of the EPA or the Trump administration came to him. He doesn’t seem like the sort of man who’d be ashamed of a little hustle, but the question momentarily interrupts his equanimity. “It . . . was . . . a conversation,” he says. “A process.”

Well, isn’t everything? Presumably, Pruitt’s taciturnity on the question is an artifact of his having been a Jeb guy rather than a Trump guy early on. But there’s no question that Pruitt is fully on the Trump team now.

He is genuinely excited about the possibilities we have for improving the environment. He speaks at some length about Disney’s arrangement with Harvest Power, an alternative-power company that takes the Magic Kingdom’s food waste and uses it to generate electricity that it sells back to Disney. “What was even more impressive was to spend time with the Disney employees, because they understand that this is purposeful.” That’s another one of those words he keeps coming back to: purposeful. “A lot of times, we think of recycling as being charitable without realizing it can be purposeful, that it can truly contribute something. For example, over 20 percent of our landfills in this country are food waste. That’s a lot. If we made progress with respect to how we deal with food waste in a more productive way, it would have a tremendous impact on the environment.” He is unsparing in his assessment of the Obama administration, which he views as having been so strangled by its ideological commitments that it not only deformed the EPA but also failed to achieve any number of realistic, near-term environmental goals. He has been visiting Superfund sites and insisting that the involved parties come up with plans to get them “mediated,” as they say, meaning cleaned up and detoxified enough that they’re no longer on the long list of permanent federal environmental emergencies.

“If you look at the previous administration’s environmental record, I would be hard pressed to point to any successes. If their goal was to use their authority to pick winners and losers in the marketplace and shut down sectors of the economy, they were prevented ultimately” — by a lot of lawsuits filed by Scott Pruitt and others — “but they made progress toward that end. But you look at air-quality standards, water quality, land remediation, the Superfund sites, they did not achieve very much.” There is, he says, an opportunity for bipartisanship. “The criticism of Paris was as strong on the left as it was on the right. You’re going to allow China to skate until 2030? Allow India to skate until 2030? It was all a bumper sticker, and that’s all it was. The previous administration was all talk, very little action. We’re trying to focus on results. We’re going to get results on land remediation under Superfund. What’s so radical about that? We’re going to focus on air quality and measure that every single day. What’s so radical about that?” Though he doesn’t put it exactly this way, what Pruitt really objects to is repurposing environmental policy as industrial policy, as backdoor central planning. Alternative fuels and clean energy are all good and fine, but the Obama administration’s Clean Power Plan wasn’t about that: It was about bankrupting the coal industry. “Generation-shifting is not at all consistent with the authority given to the agency,” Pruitt says.

And there is the question of what Robert Higgs calls “regime uncertainty.”

“We have private-property rights here,” Pruitt says, warming to his subject. “Those folks who have natural gas, coal, other resources — that’s their asset. They own the mineral rights. The United States government does not. Should we be able to use our authority to take that natural resource away? It’s not just a philosophical discussion. It’s also recognizing that private-property rights and the self-governing principles that we have lived under as a country are actually the greatest asset we have to improve environmental outcomes. You look at countries that are top-down, like China or former Communist countries: How do they do with the environment? Not very well.” But it’s a different world in the Asia of today. “India’s going to use its natural resources. China as well. Our goal should be to partner with them and export our technology and innovation to help them. We can also export hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling to help them understand how to get to those resources.” Exporting fracking: You can see why Al Gore is probably not going to send Scott Pruitt a big bouquet of flowers for Valentine’s Day.

Not that Pruitt is going to notice. He lives in a different and much more concrete world: so many acres of corn, so many tons of food waste, so many cubic feet of natural gas. He returns to stewardship-versus-prohibition.

“There are two tracks to the dialogue. One track is more granular in the sense that we talk about process, statutory authority, rule-making, those sorts of issues. There should be much more understanding, in my view, of how those things should work. We can’t just say, ‘Well, the Clean Air Act in Section 111 doesn’t give us the authority to do this, but we think it’s the right thing, and so we’re going to do it anyway.’ There ought not to be any departure on things as fundamental as the rule of law. But when you talk about the other issue” — the question of whether we were made for creation or creation was made for us — “we need to have that discussion. What do we as a culture, as a nation, believe about this? And that’s the question I’ve been asking everywhere I go.”

Where he’s going next is an interesting question, too.

Message

From: Shane Kinne [skinne@mocorn.org]
Sent: 11/9/2017 10:17:25 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Phone Call

Jeff –

I really appreciate you taking the time to jump on the phone with us this morning. As mentioned please let me know if I can provide information that is helpful at any point. Have a great weekend!

Shane

From: Sands, Jeffrey [mailto:sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2017 3:37 PM
To: Shane Kinne <skinne@mocorn.org>
Subject: RE: Phone Call

Great. (202) 564-2263

From: Shane Kinne [mailto:skinne@mocorn.org]
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2017 4:31 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>
Cc: Samantha Davis <sdavis@mocorn.org>; Darrick Steen <dsteen@mocorn.org>
Subject: RE: Phone Call

We can just gather at my office in call your office line if that works on your end.

Shane

From: Sands, Jeffrey [mailto:sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Shane Kinne <skinne@mocorn.org>
Cc: Samantha Davis <sdavis@mocorn.org>; Darrick Steen <dsteen@mocorn.org>
Subject: RE: Phone Call

Thanks Shane.

Is there a number I should count on calling you or would the group like to get together and call me on my office line?

From: Shane Kinne [mailto:skinne@mocorn.org]
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2017 3:47 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>
Cc: Samantha Davis <sdavis@mocorn.org>; Darrick Steen <dsteen@mocorn.org>
Subject: RE: Phone Call

That works well, Jeff. We appreciate it.

Shane

From: Sands, Jeffrey [<mailto:sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>]
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2017 1:30 PM
To: Shane Kinne <skinne@mocorn.org>
Cc: Samantha Davis <sdavis@mocorn.org>; Darrick Steen <dsteen@mocorn.org>
Subject: RE: Phone Call

Hey all,

I appreciate you reaching out. How does Thursday morning look on your calendars, say 9:30PM your time?

Thanks much for your consideration. Look forward to speaking soon.

Best,
Jeff

From: Shane Kinne [<mailto:skinne@mocorn.org>]
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2017 12:18 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>
Cc: Samantha Davis <sdavis@mocorn.org>; Darrick Steen <dsteen@mocorn.org>
Subject: RE: Phone Call

Those folks are now copied. Can't even blame it on being a Monday.

Thanks, Jeff.

Shane

From: Shane Kinne
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2017 9:56 AM
To: 'sands.jeffrey@epa.gov' <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: Phone Call

Hi Jeff,

I hope all is well. How about those Dawgs? Definitely a better year to be a Georgia fan than Mizzou.

Copied on this email is Samantha Davis and Darrick Steen. Samantha works with me on policy issues and Darrick is our lead on all things environmental. He works with us and Missouri Soybean. Would you have anytime next week to jump on the phone with the three of us?

Thanks in advance!

Shane Kinne
Director of Public Policy
Missouri Corn Growers Association

Message

From: Kyle Harris [kharris@corn.org]
Sent: 11/8/2017 9:17:25 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
CC: Dominguez, Alexander [dominguez.alexander@epa.gov]
Subject: Ag Biogenic CO2
Attachments: Biogenic CO2 Coalition - 1-pg Overview (3-13-17).pdf

Mr. Sands,

My name is Kyle Harris and I manage the Environmental Affairs for the Corn Refiners Association, who chairs the Biogenic CO2 Coalition (please find our 1-pager attached).

I would appreciate the opportunity to come and brief you on our issue, which involves air emissions from the processing and/or combustion of short-cycle herbaceous crops. The Ag sector is poised to invest billions of dollars throughout the United States to expand the bioeconomy, which can provide 21st century solutions to economic growth, domestic energy security, and environmental benefits in the form of bioenergy, biofuels, and bioproducts made from corn, oilseeds, crop residues, farm wastes and other agricultural feedstocks.

We have been working on this issue closely with OAR, and Alex has kindly given me your contact information.

Please advise any times that may work for you and your team where we could sit down and further discuss.

Thanks in advance,

Kyle

Kyle A. Harris, Esq.
Manager, Environmental Affairs/ Workplace Safety
Corn Refiners Association
www.corn.org
1701 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite 950, Washington, DC 20006
Office: (202) 391-1100
Cell: (202) 391-1100



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BIOGENIC CO₂ COALITION

Members

American Bakers
Association

American Farm
Bureau Federation

Corn Refiners
Association

Enginuity Worldwide

National Corn
Growers Association

National Cotton
Council of America

National Cottonseed
Products Association

National Oilseed
Processors
Association

North American
Millers' Association

The Biogenic CO₂ Coalition supports science-based recognition that agricultural biogenic CO₂ emissions are not harmful greenhouse gases and opposes EPA's overreach in regulating sustainability on farms.

Agriculture is key to the 21st century bioeconomy that includes feeding America and the expansion of bioproducts such as bioplastics, composites, and intermediates made from corn, oilseeds and other agricultural feedstocks. According to the federal government, the bioeconomy in 2013 was valued at \$369 billion, provided 4 million American jobs, and was the leading source of domestic renewable energy. The bioeconomy is poised to expand exponentially with tremendous potential for economic development and job creation.

When farmers grow crops, they store carbon (CO₂) from the atmosphere, and when agricultural feedstocks are used for food, fuel and fiber, CO₂ simply returns to the atmosphere in a natural biogenic cycle.

Because of the benefits of agriculture as a renewable and sustainable resource, "biogenic" CO₂ emissions from agricultural feedstocks are universally accepted as carbon neutral by policymakers and scientists, yet:

- EPA is ignoring science and treating biogenic CO₂ emissions from farm products a "harmful pollutant" the same as fossil fuels.
- Practically speaking, EPA is putting a pollution tax on farm products, which imposes \$\$\$ millions of unnecessary costs on users of farm products (think bakeries, brewers and grain processors) and energy generators (for example, corn stover used for electricity).
- If farmers want to avoid EPA's pollution tax, EPA says it can dictate what "sustainable" farm practices can be used to produce food products or energy feedstocks, which will require tracking compliance of every bushel of corn, wheat, soy or cottonseed from its source.

Congress should stop EPA from ignoring science and blocking American agriculture and bioeconomy markets. Prompt relief is crucial, as development of the bioeconomy will not wait – if the U.S. does not move forward, other countries will dominate these markets.

Our Request:

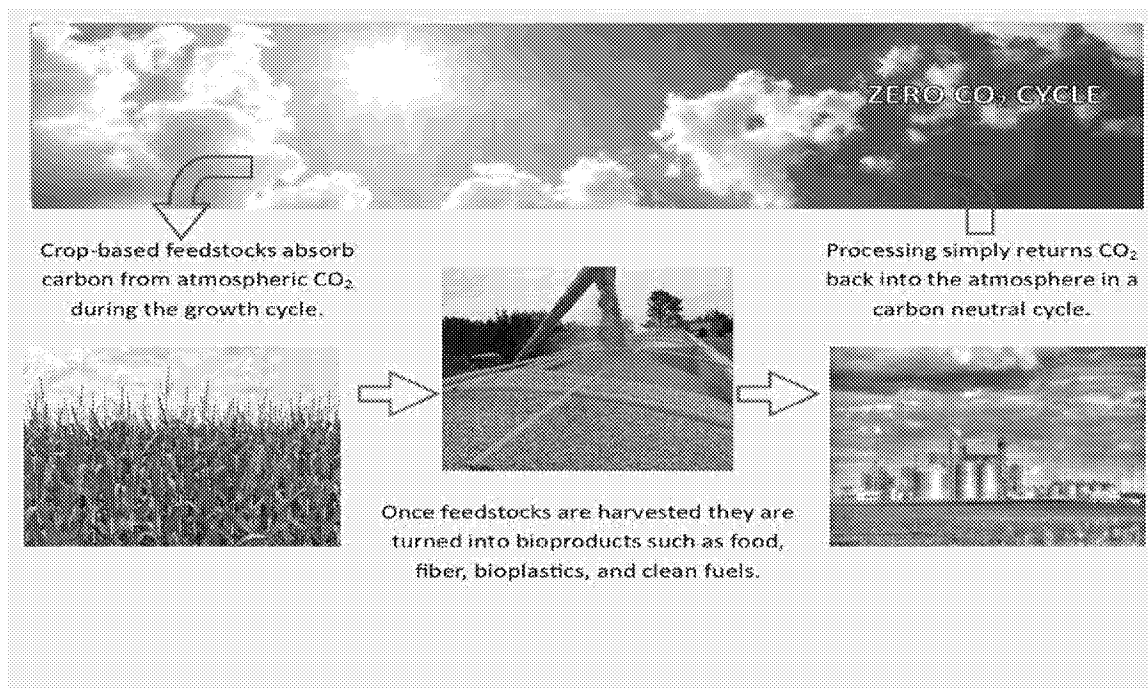
Biogenic CO₂ emissions from the use or processing of agricultural crops should be recognized as *de minimis* or zero under the Clean Air Act; and

EPA should retract any attempt to regulate "sustainable" farming practices as a condition to feedstock eligibility under its Clean Power Plan (CPP) or Clean Air Act.

About the Biogenic CO₂ Coalition:

The Biogenic CO₂ Coalition, through its member national trade groups, represents a broad swath of agriculture and related sector constituents in advocating for sensible policies recognizing the carbon benefits of agricultural production and processing.

Carbon Lifecycle of Agricultural Crops



American Bakers Association
www.americanbakers.org

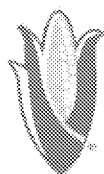


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Message

From: Peyton Harper [pharper@tfi.org]
Sent: 12/20/2017 2:45:37 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: Syngenta Contact

Good Morning Jeff,

I hope you are doing well and are enjoying the new role at EPA. I was hoping that you may be able to help me track down the proper representative at Syngenta in regards to a 4R Partner effort that we are planning for Commodity Classic. I thought you would be able to point me in the right direction since you were the original backing for Syngenta to become a 4R Partner. Any help or insight you could provide would be greatly appreciated!

Merry Christmas!

Peyton Harper
Senior Manager, Stewardship & Sustainability Programs
The Fertilizer Institute

Ex. 6

From: Message from the Chief of Staff [messagefromthechiefstaff@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/23/2018 6:34:09 PM
To: Message from the Chief of Staff [messagefromthechiefstaff@epa.gov]
Subject: Science Advisory Board and Office of Homeland Security personnel announcements



Colleagues,

I want to share two announcements about personnel changes in the Office of the Administrator.

Chris Zarba, the Director of EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB), has announced that he will retire from EPA on February 2, 2018. I would like to thank Chris for his many years of service to EPA, and in particular for his leadership of the SAB for the past five years. We greatly appreciate his commitment to coordinating high quality, independent science advice for EPA.

I am pleased to announce that Tom Brennan has agreed to serve as Acting Director of the SAB, effective February 5, 2018. Tom has been at EPA for 20 years and currently serves as the Chief of Staff for the Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education (OPEEE). Prior to joining OPEEE, Tom was Deputy Director of the SAB Staff Office and also held several positions in the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, including risk assessor and communications officer. Tom began his career as a consultant supporting risk assessment activities for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, and EPA. In addition to his work at EPA, Tom was also an adjunct professor at Montgomery College, where he taught environmental science and general biology from 2011-2014. Tom has B.S. and M.S. degrees in plant biology from Ohio University.

Since Dave Kling's retirement as Associate Administrator for the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) in October 2017, Mario Caraballo has provided leadership for this important EPA office. We are grateful for Mario's assistance during a very busy time over the past four months in OHS. Mario will resume his position as the Deputy Associate Administrator in OHS on January 29, 2018.

I have asked Ted Stanich, currently the Deputy Director of EPA's Criminal Investigation Division (CID) in the Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics, and Training (OCEFT), to begin serving as Acting Associate Administrator of OHS, effective January 29, 2018. Ted has served in several investigative and management positions within CID, working in Regions 3, 4, and 5, and as the Special Agent in Charge of the Washington, DC Area Office. After responding to the 9/11 attacks and anthrax attacks in 2001, he was instrumental in the creation of the National Criminal Enforcement Response Team (NCERT), one of EPA's Special Teams. He also served as the Senior Law Enforcement Intelligence Advisor to OCEFT at the FBI's National Joint Terrorism Task Force (NJTTF) for two years, during which time he was instrumental in raising awareness within the intelligence community of EPA's response role and capabilities in the event of a WMD terrorist attack. Ted holds a B.A. in Russian and a B.S. in criminal justice from Bowling Green State University, and an M.P.A. in Public Policy and Management from Ohio State University.

Thanks to Tom and Ted for stepping up as we begin the process for permanently filling these important positions.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff

Message

From: Shane Kinne [skinne@mocorn.org]
Sent: 11/28/2017 10:10:41 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: Comment letter on Missouri NNC
Attachments: MCGA_MSA NNC letter_final.pdf

Hi Jeff,

I just wanted to pass along for your reference our comment letter on the proposed NNC in Missouri. Let me know if you have any questions. Hope you had a good Thanksgiving!

Shane Kinne
Missouri Corn



November 28, 2017

Chris Wieberg, Director
Water Protection Program
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

Re: Water Quality Standards Proposed Rule

Dear Mr. Wieberg:

The Missouri Corn Growers Association (MCGA) and the Missouri Soybean Association (MSA) submits the following joint comments on the proposed rule amendment to Missouri's Water Quality Standards, as published in the Oct. 16, 2017 Missouri Register. Our comments pertain only to the lake numeric nutrient criteria portion of this rulemaking.

Our position remains that more effective alternatives exist to numeric nutrient criteria when addressing nutrient management in our state's water. We do appreciate the department's attention and responsiveness to stakeholder input on this proposed rulemaking; a rulemaking that under the current circumstances we support moving forward. Over the last 11 months, we have observed DNR working hard to seek a state nutrient criteria standard that both protects water quality while also minimizing regulatory burdens; a common goal we share.

We understand and recognize that the department is moving this nutrient criteria regulation forward in response to a 2016 federal consent decree. The consent decree placed a court-ordered deadline for EPA to propose and finalize nutrient water quality criteria for Missouri's lakes unless the State proposes and finalizes its own rulemaking adopting said criteria. We believe it's important to note that the consent decree does not specify or bind the state as to the substance of what the criteria must look like or include. For instance, questions such as how stringent the criteria should be or what designated uses are to be addressed are not outlined in the decree. This point affords DNR the latitude to craft a rule that is practical, realistic and appropriately accounts for and protects Missouri's unique man-made reservoirs.

As we all know, nutrient regulations are inherently difficult and costly for the public and private sectors to implement. In addition, they will add substantial workload and costs to department operations. Given this, we feel strongly that that DNR need only finalize a nutrient criteria regulation that is focused and narrowed on the immediate task at hand; the task of adequately resolving the consent decree and protecting water quality. In our review of the proposed rule, we believe that DNR has accomplished this goal.

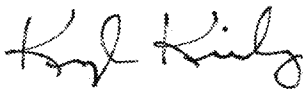
Additionally, we feel strongly that a nutrient regulation that forces additional regulatory burdens on the back of Missouri businesses and citizens must be developed solely by Missourians, and not the federal government. The regulation must be practical and realistic, use Missouri specific data and methods and account for Missouri specific conditions and characteristics to guide its development. It is imperative that state specific criteria be based on state-based water quality data and methods to ensure that the nature of Missouri's unique man-made reservoirs is appropriately accounted for. This prevents inaccurate assessment of waters as impaired as well limits unintended consequences resulting from overly conservative phosphorous or nitrogen values derived from otherwise regional or national level data. Again, we appreciate the department's attention and responsiveness to stakeholders on this matter, and in our view, DNR has strived to use state specific data, as well as use in-state water quality experts to guide criteria development whenever possible.

We do continue to have concerns that the proposed criteria presents possible scenarios where many lakes in North Missouri are caught in a perpetually impaired status. Northern Missouri is inherently vulnerable to soil erosion and sedimentation, even in natural landscapes. This is a natural hydrological process, and while landowners and the state alike do their best to control soil erosion, we cannot completely stop it. In fact, many of the impoundments in north Missouri were constructed at least in part to address this natural resource concern, that being controlling sedimentation and soil erosion. We believe that in some instances meeting or maintaining the suitability of water in northern Missouri lakes to meet the proposed nutrient standard could be inherently challenging, if not impossible, because of these factors.

As a matter of principle, we should not expect man-made impoundments to perform in a way for which they were never designed or intended to, or in ways for which they realistically cannot. While we are not calling for changes to the rule language itself, we do believe that these challenges can and must be addressed by the department during implementation by being mindful of this challenge, by employing constraint in the decision-making prior to impairing such waterbodies, and finally by affording maximum flexibility in any assessment and restoration process.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. We look forward to working with the Department in implementing this rulemaking.

Regards,



Kyle Kirby, President
MISSOURI CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION



Matt McCrate, President
MISSOURI SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION

Message

From: Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/20/2018 7:33:00 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Meetings on the 20th and 21st, MCFA Technical Committee and Water Monitoring Workshop, NAFTA TWG IWG Conference Call
Attachments: MCFA Agenda -- 02202018.docx; Workshop Agenda.docx; NAFTA TWG Call Agenda.pdf; Minor Crop Farmer Alliance Backpocket TPs.docx

Jeff,

The Minor Crop Farmer Alliance is discussing many EPA-related topics today and tomorrow which are listed in their attached agendas (pesticides, ESA, NPDES, PRIA, pollinators, monitoring, etc.), and they have speakers from both USDA and EPA for the technical aspects (Mark Corbin, Dana Spatz, Sheryl Kunickis). They are just looking for an informal meet and greet with you at their lunch tables, but I've also attached here an excerpt of your potentially relevant TPs that you can keep for backpocket.

Along with Daniel Botts, Phil Korson (Cherry Marketing Institute, Charman of the alliance) was also on our FRRCC. Phil's term is still current.

---Hema.

Hema Subramanian
Acting Special Assistant to the Senior Advisor for Agriculture
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Phone (202) 564-5041
subramanian.hema@epa.gov

From: Daniel Botts [mailto:Daniel.Botts@ffva.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 11:00 AM
To: Subramanian, Hema <Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>
Cc: Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Meetings on the 20th and 21st, MCFA Technical Committee and Water Monitoring Workshop, NAFTA TWG IWG Conference Call

Hema,

That's great. We are looking forward to an informal meet and greet and get to know you type session. There are several agenda items on our technical committee agenda that he may want to provide an indication of where they fit into the priorities he sees as EPA moves forward.

I will get a tentative list of Participants to you early next week.

Thanks,

Dan

Dan

FFVA

From: Subramanian, Hema [<mailto:Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 10:53 AM

To: Daniel Botts <Daniel.Botts@ffva.com>

Cc: Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Meetings on the 20th and 21st, MCFA Technical Committee and Water Monitoring Workshop, NAFTA TWG IWG Conference Call

Daniel,

I've confirmed Jeff can join you from 11:30-12:30 at your Minor Crop Farmers Alliance annual meeting next Wednesday, the 21st at the following address:

McDermott, Will & Emery
500 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC

I am cc'ing Jeff here, so that you have his contact information and he can see our exchange. Will you want him to come prepared with formal remarks for the group, and if so, on any topics in particular? Or if it is more of an informal opportunity to meet with the group, that is fine as well. Just let us know if there are any other logistics/entrance procedures he should be aware of.

Thank you,
---Hema.

Hema Subramanian
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subramanian.hema@epa.gov

From: Daniel Botts [<mailto:Daniel.Botts@ffva.com>]

Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 10:35 AM

To: Subramanian, Hema <Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Meetings on the 20th and 21st, MCFA Technical Committee and Water Monitoring Workshop, NAFTA TWG IWG Conference Call

Hema,

I just got off the phone with our leadership group and would like to invite Jeff to meet with us at McDermott, Will and Emery. Our annual meeting will probably wrap up shortly after 11:00 so 11:30 until 12:30 would work for us. We will have lunch brought in, if that works for you, and if we run over a little it won't impact the work shop that starts at 1:30. I will let the MCFA Membership know about the opportunity to meet via email and will be able to provide a list of attendees from our side on Monday. I am anticipating a probable group of about 10 to 12 (it could possibly be a few more) if we have the meeting at MWE. If this doesn't work for you we would still plan to make the 11:30 to 12:30 time slot work at Federal Triangle.

Dan

FFVA

From: Subramanian, Hema [<mailto:Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 4:48 PM
To: Daniel Botts <Daniel.Botts@ffva.com>
Subject: RE: Meetings on the 20th and 21st, MCFA Technical Committee and Water Monitoring Workshop, NAFTA TWG IWG Conference Call

I think the best option for Jeff will be Wednesday between 11:30-12:30. But could you clarify if that would be meeting here at the EPA office, or if it would need to be a lunch? If it would be a lunch meeting, I can check whether Jeff would be able to meet you at your N. Capitol location or a restaurant.

Thank you,
---Hema.

Hema Subramanian
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From: Daniel Botts [<mailto:Daniel.Botts@ffva.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 4:33 PM
To: Subramanian, Hema <Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Meetings on the 20th and 21st, MCFA Technical Committee and Water Monitoring Workshop, NAFTA TWG IWG Conference Call

Hema, on Tuesday we can expand the lunch break to an hour from 30 minutes if he wanted to come over and meet with us then, on Wednesday – the meeting is scheduled from 9:30 until 11:30 but I don't think it will last the full two hours.. We could plan to meet Him at your location around 11:30 and that would give me at least an hour before I would have to head back over to MWE – the rest of the group (probably five to six people) could stay until closer to 1:00 pm. The OPP workshop in the afternoon is scheduled for 3 hours but I don't think it will last that long so we could probably meet any time after 4:00.

Dan

FFVA

From: Subramanian, Hema [<mailto:Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 4:24 PM
To: Daniel Botts <Daniel.Botts@ffva.com>
Subject: RE: Meetings on the 20th and 21st, MCFA Technical Committee and Water Monitoring Workshop, NAFTA TWG IWG Conference Call

Thank you, Mr. Botts. Can you clarify the exact times and locations on each day to check with Jeff about? Sounds like you wouldn't have much time on Wednesday if you met at noon?
---Hema.

Hema Subramanian
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Phone (202) 564-5041
subramanian.hema@epa.gov

From: Daniel Botts [<mailto:Daniel.Botts@ffva.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 4:17 PM
To: Subramanian, Hema <Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Meetings on the 20th and 21st, MCFA Technical Committee and Water Monitoring Workshop, NAFTA TWG IWG Conference Call

Hema,

This is the email notification that went out last week to the MCFA Membership concerning the meetings Next week. As I mentioned, we would love to have Jeff come over during our lunch break for an informal meet and greet (he is welcome to stay for any of the meeting he would like). On Wednesday we have a two hour break around the noon hour if he would like for a smaller group to come to him. I will need to be back at McDermott, Will and Emery by 1:00 to prepare for the Workshop with OPP EFED.

It was great speaking with you and I look forward to hearing from the Smart Sectors group.

Dan

FFVA

From: Daniel Botts
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 3:16 PM
To: Andy LaVigne <alavigne@amseed.org>; Barbara Madden <Madden@nwhort.org>; Ben Sacher (bsacher@wga.com) <bsacher@wga.com>; Carlene Price - California Citrus Quality Council (cprice@ccqc.org) <cprice@ccqc.org>; Chris Voigt <cvoigt@potatoes.com>; Craig Regelbrugge (CraigR@americanHort.org) <CraigR@americanHort.org>; Daniel Botts <Daniel.Botts@ffva.com>; Donn Zea (dzea@cdpb.org) <dzea@cdpb.org>; Edward Ruckert (E-mail) <eruckert@mwe.com>; Gabriele Ludwig <gludwig@almondboard.com>; Gary Obenauf (gobenauf@agresearchconsulting.com) <gobenauf@agresearchconsulting.com>; Gary Van Sickle (gary@specialtycrops.org) <gary@specialtycrops.org>; James R. Cranney - California Citrus Quality Council (jcranney@ccqc.org) <jcranney@ccqc.org>; jdemarchi@amseed.org; Jill Calabro (jillc@americanhort.org) <jillc@americanhort.org>; Joe Bischoff (JBischoff@cgagroup.com) <JBischoff@cgagroup.com>; John Keeling (JOHNK@nationalpotatocouncil.org) <JOHNK@nationalpotatocouncil.org>; Julia Stewart (jstewart@prclarity.com) <jstewart@prclarity.com>; Kate Woods (woods@nwhort.org) <woods@nwhort.org>; Kathy Means (kmeans@pma.com) <kmeans@pma.com>; Lucy Nieves <Lucy.Nieves@ffva.com>; Marcy L. Martin (mmartin@cafreshfruit.com) <mmartin@cafreshfruit.com>; Mark Powers (powers@nwhort.org) <powers@nwhort.org>; Mark W. Seetin

(mseetin@usapple.org) <mseetin@usapple.org>; Matt Harris (mharris@potatoes.com) <mharris@potatoes.com>; Matt McInerney (E-mail) <mmcinerney@wga.com>; Mike Aerts <Mike.Aerts@ffva.com>; Mike Willett (willett@treefruitresearch.com) <willett@treefruitresearch.com>; Nancy McBrady (nancy.mcbrady@maine.edu) <nancy.mcbrady@maine.edu>; Patrick Kole (patrick.kole@potato.idaho.gov) <patrick.kole@potato.idaho.gov>; Paul Schlegel (pauls@fb.org) <pauls@fb.org>; Peter Chaires <pchaires@flcitruspackers.org>; Philip Korson (E-mail) [Ex. 6]; Rob Neenam (rob@clfp.com) <rob@clfp.com>; Robert Ehn (E-mail) <robertehn@sbcglobal.net>; Robert L. Guenther (rguenther@unitedfresh.org) <rguenther@unitedfresh.org>; Terry Humfeld (thumfeld@cranberryinstitute.org) <thumfeld@cranberryinstitute.org>; Todd Scholz (tscholz@usapulses.org) <tscholz@usapulses.org>; Tom Bellamore (E-mail) <tbellamore@avocado.org>

Cc: Alan R. Ayers <alan.ayers@bayer.com>; Alexander Domesle <alexander.domesle@ars.usda.gov>; Aline DeLucia (aline@Nasda.org) <aline@Nasda.org>; Allen Scarborough <allen.scarborough@bayer.com>; Barbara Glenn <barb@nasda.org>; Beau Greenwood <bgreenwood@croplifeamerica.org>; Burleson Smith [Ex. 6]; Cindy Baker-Smith <csmith@gowanco.com>; Dan Campbell <dan.campbell@syngenta.com>; Daniel L. Kunkel <kunkel@aesop.rutgers.edu>; David L. Epstein <david.epstein@ars.usda.gov>; Diana Haynes <diana.haynes@ams.usda.gov>; Elizabeth Hill <elizabeth.hill2@ars.usda.gov>; Eric@nsgovstrat.com; Fay, Dan <Dan.Fay@valent.com>; Harold Browning <hwbr@citrusrdf.org>; Heidi B. Irrig <heidi.irrig@syngenta.com>; Iain D. Kelly <iain.kelly@bayer.com>; Janis McFarland <janis.mcfarland@syngenta.com>; Jeff Case <JCase@croplifeamerica.org>; Jerry Baron <jbaron@aesop.rutgers.edu>; Jill Schroeder <jill.schroeder@ars.usda.gov>; John G. Cummings Ph. D. <john_cummings@fmc.com>; John Kran <jkran@michfb.com>; Joseph Starr <joseph.starr@pepsico.com>; Juli Jessen <jljessen@gowanco.com>; Julie Chao <julie.chao@fas.usda.gov>; Julius Fajardo <julius.fajardo@ars.usda.gov>; Laura McConnell <laura.mcconnell@bayer.com>; Lori Berger <lori@agbusinessresources.com>; Mark A. Rasmussen <Mark.Rasmussen@FAS.USDA.GOV>; Mark Maslyn [Ex. 6]; Matt Lantz <matthewl@bryantchristie.com>; Maximilian A. Merrill <mmerrill@lawbc.com>; Ray S. McAllister <rmcallister@croplifeamerica.org>; [Ex. 6] Ronald Williams <ronaldwilliams@coca-cola.com>; Scott Rawlins <srawlins@wilburellis.com>; Sheryl H. Kunickis - USDA (sheryl.kunickis@osec.usda.gov) <sheryl.kunickis@osec.usda.gov>; Smith, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Smith@valent.com>; Steven Bradbury <steve@spbradbury.com>; Teung Chin <Teung.Chin@ARS.USDA.GOV>

Subject: Meetings on the 20th and 21st, MCFA Technical Committee and Water Monitoring Workshop, NAFTA TWG IWG Conference Call

To All:

Please find attached the agendas for the MCFA technical Committee meeting and the MCFA/OPP Workshop on the Use of Monitoring Data in Pesticide Reevaluation. The time and location of the meetings are shown on the agenda. We will have teleconferencing available at both meetings. If plan to attend the Work Shop via teleconference please let me know by return email so I can send the presentations to you prior to the WS (around 1:00 pm on the 21st).

In addition, we will have a short conference call with the NAFTA TWG Industry Working Group at 5:00 pm following the technical committee meeting. For MCFA Members participating at the technical meeting I have arranged to use a smaller conference room at MWE to facilitate our groups participation. The agenda provided by Crop Life America for that meeting is also attached.

I have started a list of in person attendees at the meeting for MWE use in checking in people on the 20th and 21st, If you are planning to participate in person please let me know so I can provide the list to McDermott, Will and Emery , I will need this by COB on Monday February 19.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 20th and 21st.

Dan

Daniel A. Bolito

Vice President Industry Resources
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 948153
Maitland, Florida 32794-8153

Street Address:

800 Trafalgar Court, Suite 200
Maitland, Florida 32751

Contact Information:

FFVA Main Number: (321) 214-5200

Direct Line:

Cell Phone:

Email Address: daniel.botts@ffva.com

Use of Monitoring Data in Pesticide Re-evaluation Work Shop

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

1:30 pm -- 4:30 pm

McDermott Building, Senate Conference Room

500 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Purpose of the meeting

To establish a common understanding of process and policies to drive the use of monitoring data in the pesticide reevaluation process; MCFA asked EPA to provide a workshop on the issues and objectives that will be presented in the white paper under development for discussion by the Science Advisory Panel in the future. We are especially interested in the types and quality of data that is being considered and how it will be used. What considerations are being made regarding current models on the need to revise if monitoring data is used? How will temporal impacts of specific compound use be considered or included in the process? How industry generated information may be used to inform the decision process?

Participation

MCFA Technical Committee
MCFA Support Contact List
EPA OPP (EFED)

Proposed Agenda

- Introductions/Overview (10 Minutes)
- EPA Presentations (90 Minutes +/-)
 - Overview of DWA Process
 - Surface Water and Ground Water Modeling
 - Tiered Refinement Process
 - Quantitative and Qualitative Use of Monitoring Data
 - Efforts related to Monitoring SAP
 - Specific Data Needs from Specialty Crops
 - Future Advances in Drinking Water Assessments
- Q & A/Discussion (60 Minutes +/-)

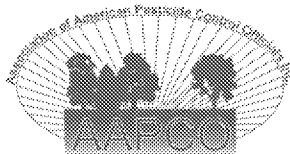
Message

From: Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/20/2018 6:31:55 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]; Bennett, Tate [Bennett.Tate@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: AAPCO-2/26 agenda item
Attachments: 2018 final agenda Feb 16.docx

Are either of you speaking at AAPCO Monday morning? Agenda attached.
OPP is trying to figure out who the EPA leadership speaker is.

Thanks.

Nancy B. Beck, Ph.D., DABT
Deputy Assistant Administrator, OCSP
P: 202-564-1273
M: Ex. 6
beck.nancy@epa.gov



AAPCO's 71st Annual Meeting
March 4-7, 2018
Grand Ballroom, Old Town Hilton, Alexandria VA
AGENDA

Sunday March 4

12-2pm Conference Registration Open - lobby

2-5pm Board of Director's Meeting, open to AAPCO Members – Washington/Jefferson Room

Monday March 5

Morning Moderator: Tony Cofer, AAPCO President, Alabama Department of Agriculture

8:00 am Welcome – Tony Cofer, AAPCO President, Alabama Department of Agriculture

Announcements and Roll Call of States, Tribes, Federal Agencies, Industry and Other Attendees - Amy Sullivan, AAPCO Executive Secretary

9:00 am EPA Report –

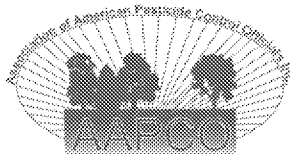
EPA leadership will provide an update on the activities related to pesticides of the agency in the last year and provide insight into the challenges and activities of the coming year.

9:40 am Update from the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) – Richard Keigwin, Director of the Office of Pesticide Programs

OPP leadership will provide an update on the various programs in OPP, including anticipated efforts during 2018.

10:00 am Break

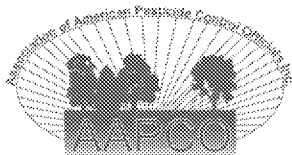
10:20 am Update from the from the EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance (OECA) – Edward Messina, Director of Monitoring, Assistance, and Media Programs Division and Gregory Sullivan, Director of Waste and Chemical Enforcement Division (OECA)



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OECA leadership will provide an update on the various programs in OECA, including anticipated efforts during 2018.

- 10:50 am Cooperative Federalism and Regulatory Reform – Dr. Barb Glenn, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
As an affiliate association to AAPCO, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) plays a key role in setting and advancing policies, establishing partnerships and ensuring sound programs at all levels of the federal government which affect the regulation, promotion or development of Agriculture. AAPCO has worked as partners with NASDA on multiple issues including pollinators and regulation revisions for WPS and C&T. NASDA leadership will provide an update of their efforts and anticipated areas of focus in the coming year.
- 11:15 am Pesticide Impurities in EPA Registered Pesticide Products with a focus on PR 96-8 - Rose Kachadoorian, Oregon Department of Agriculture; Daniel Rosenblatt, OPP US EPA
- 11:45 am Lunch, on your own
- Afternoon Moderator: Rose Kachadoorian, AAPCO President-Elect, Oregon Department of Agriculture
- 1:15 pm Overview of the EPA seed-treatment memo and a discussion of the reduced residue chemistry data requirements. Julie L. Van Alstine, EPA,
- 1:30 pm NMFS Biological Opinions; and MOA Establishing Interagency Workgroup on ESA Consultations. Marietta Echeverria, OPP US EPA



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1:50 pm Continuing Pollinator Protection Efforts. Pat Jones, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Isaak Stapleton, Oregon Department of Agriculture; Liza Fleeson Trossbach, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Mike Goodis, OPP US EPA

This session will cover examples of state implemented MP3 programs; the efforts of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) and SLAs to develop metrics to measure program success; and an EPA update on the implementation of the acute mitigation policy, and the Pollinator Research Task Force.

2:45 pm Break

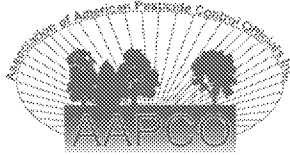
3:00 pm International Pesticide Registration Activities: More Than Just Harmonization. - Heidi Irrig, Syngenta, Donna Davis, OPP EPA, Julie Chao, FAS-USDA, Jerry Baron, IR-4
The roles and efforts of various federal agencies, IR-4 and registrants in facilitating international trade, through collaboration and cooperation.

5:00 pm Adjourn

Tuesday March 6

Morning Moderator: Leo Reed, AAPCO Director, Office of the Indiana State Chemist

8:00 am Lessons Learned - Panel on Dicamba - Registration, Incidents, Outreach
Panelists:
Reuben Baris: USEPA-Where we've been and where we are going.
Ty Witten: Monsanto-Number of cases investigated, what the investigations consisted of and causal factors.



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Dan Westberg: BASF-Number of cases investigated, what the investigations consisted of and causal factors.

Joe Ikley: Purdue University-Threading the needle.

Dave Scott: Office of Indiana State Chemist-State perspective, number of investigations, causal factors, cost to the state.

While new technology is usually a good thing, how it is introduced can make or break the success of a new tool in pest management. 2017 saw states dealing with numerous cases of misuse of Dicamba. New product, challenges.

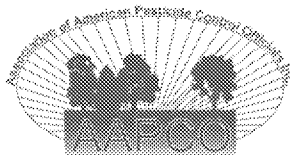
10:00 am Break

10:20 am Dicamba Discussion
Audience Q&A with the Panelists

11:00 am Unmanned Aerial Vehicles/Unmanned Aerial Systems - Melissa Rosch, Office of Indiana State Chemist: Investigator, Drone Project Manager
How can unmanned aerial systems help a state lead agency and what process must be followed?

12:00 pm Conference Luncheon, Washington/Jefferson Room and Plaza Foyer

Afternoon Moderators: Patrick Jones, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Kathy Booker, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, AAPCO Directors-at-Large



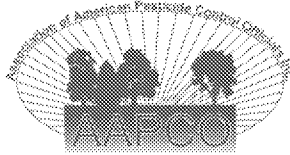
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- 1:15 pm Unmanned Aircraft Systems for Aerial Applications – Bill Reynolds, Leading Edge Association, Inc.
- 1:45 pm Respirators - Lesson Learned and Moving Forward – Robin Tutor, Marcom, EdD, MPH, OTR
- 2:30 pm WPS Resources – Kaci Buhl, Oregon State University and Suzanne Forsyth, UC Davis
- 2:45 pm Break
- 3:00 pm WPS & C&T – Kevin Keaney, EPA Office of Pesticide Programs
- 3:30 pm AAPCO Business Meeting and Presidential Address
- 5:00 pm Adjourn
- 6:00 AAPCO's President's Reception President's Reception, Grand Ballroom Foyer

Wednesday March 7

Morning Moderator: Derrick Lastinger, AAPCO Director, Georgia Department of Agriculture

- 8:00 am Industry Relations Panel
25(b) Registrations and the New AAPCO Workgroup Activities – Erica Millette, New Mexico
Department of Agriculture, Workgroup Chairperson & Lauren Myers (Spectrum)
Ingredient Transparency – Diane Boesenberg (Reckitt Benckiser), Jim Jones (CSPA) & TBD (RISE)



AAPCO's 71st Annual Meeting
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9:20 am What We Wished We Knew – Bonnie Rabe, Rollins, Inc.

9:50 am Break

10:10 am Cannabis

Facilitated by Rose Kachadoorian, AAPCO President-Elect, Oregon Department of Agriculture; John Scott, Colorado Department of Agriculture; Kelly Davis, Washington Department of Agriculture; Isaak Stapleton, Oregon Department of Agriculture; Cary Giguere, Vermont Department of Agriculture, Food & Markets

This session will address many of the issues facing FIFRA State Lead Agencies and the regulation of pesticides on cannabis. Issues covered include: who are the entities regulating pesticides on cannabis, the concept of Action Levels, and how do states address findings of pesticides in cannabis?

11:45 am Closing Remarks; Adjourn – Tony Cofer, AAPCO President, Alabama Department of Agriculture

Message

From: Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/20/2018 5:39:22 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Itinerary for 3/12
Attachments: EPA Ag Roundtable at Hershey Farm_March 12 2018.docx

Jeff,

Do you want me to confirm your participation in this PA roundtable on Monday 3/12? It would mean I decline your participation in Tate's Soybean meeting here that morning.

Hema Subramanian
Acting Special Assistant to the Senior Advisor for Agriculture
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Phone (202) 564-5041
subramanian.hema@epa.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Shenk, Kelly
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 12:22 PM
To: Subramanian, Hema <Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>
Cc: Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Itinerary for 3/12

Hi Hema,
Attached is the detailed information about the March 12th event. We have been invited to host an EPA Ag Roundtable with PA farmers in the afternoon of this day-long farmer event on Jim Hershey's farm in Lancaster County. The two planners of this event, Jim Hershey and Jim Harbach "met" Jeff Sands over the phone when we did our PA meet and greet with him. They thought this venue would be a great one to further discussions with EPA. And yes, we would like to plan a PA educational farm tour later in the spring/summer. And I am the point person for that.

Kelly Shenk
Agriculture Advisor
EPA Region III Water Protection Division shenk.kelly@epa.gov
410.267.5728

Mailing Address:
EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 112
Annapolis, MD 21403

-----Original Message-----

From: Subramanian, Hema
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 10:30 AM
To: Shenk, Kelly <shenk.kelly@epa.gov>
Cc: Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Itinerary for 3/12

Kelly,

Any updates on this 3/12 roundtable in PA? Jeff has received another potential meeting request for that day, so just wanted to check on status.

Also, am I correct that there may be a separate farm tour/meeting being planned with Sec. Redding for later on? Are you POC on that, or is there someone I should be following up with?

Thank you,
---Hema.

Hema Subramanian
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Environmental Protection Agency
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Washington, DC 20460
Phone (202) 564-5041

subramanian.hema@epa.gov

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From: Shenk, Kelly
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 3:50 PM
To: Subramanian, Hema <Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Itinerary for 3/12

Kelly Shenk
Agriculture Advisor
EPA Region III Water Protection Division shenk.kelly@epa.gov
410.267.5728

Mailing Address:
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410 Severn Avenue, Suite 112
Annapolis, MD 21403

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Hershey [mailto:Ex. 6]
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 3:16 PM
To: Shenk, Kelly <shenk.kelly@epa.gov>; Ex. 6
Subject: RE: Itinerary for 3/12

Kelly:

We would be happy to sit down with Cosmo after lunch that day and have some open dialogue. I want to make sure we take time to have a candid two-way discussion. Its not often we have this opportunity. So I want to make the best of it.

Jim Hershey
No-Till & Cover Crop Consultant
Pa No-Till Alliance-President

338 Sunnyburn Rd
Elizabethtown, Pa 17022
717-689-0235

Ex. 6

-----Original Message-----

From: Shenk, Kelly [mailto:shenk.kelly@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 10:38 AM
To: Jim Hershey; Ex. 6
Subject: RE: Itinerary for 3/12

Thank you, Jim. This is a great itinerary. It's guaranteed to be a great session with you, Jim, and Ray involved! We definitely don't want our presence to alarm anyone and we definitely don't want to disrupt this great farmer information-sharing session event. So let's talk through whether this is the right venue for us to show up.

I have had a chance to discuss this event with my Regional Administrator's events folks and got some more feedback I want to share with you. Beyond listening and learning at the meeting, Cosmo would love to have a chance to talk directly with farmers to communicate what's happening at EPA related to agriculture, hear what's on farmers' minds (and why they don't trust EPA!), and further open the lines of communication with the agricultural community to find better ways we can work together. We have held similar "Ag Roundtables" with farmers in the past and have found that these candid two-way discussions have gone a long way in better understanding each other and finding common ground. We need to get past the "alarm stage" and have candid discussions that help build back the trust.

If the Alliance Townhall Meeting is not the appropriate venue to have a 30-45 minute discussion like this, we totally understand and we can look for a more appropriate venue for this dialogue later this year. Please know that we won't be offended at all. And we certainly don't want to disrupt this incredible meeting. So let me know what you think! K

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Agriculture Advisor
EPA Region III Water Protection Division shenk.kelly@epa.gov
410.267.5728

Mailing Address:
EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 112
Annapolis, MD 21403

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From: Jim Hershey [mailto:Ex. 6]

Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 10:01 AM

To: Shenk, Kelly <shenk.kelly@epa.gov>; [REDACTED] Ex. 6

Subject: RE: Itinerary for 3/12

Kelly:

The Alliance Townhall Meeting is going to be held at our farm on Mar. 12 from 9:00am - 3:00 p.m. I haven't completed the agenda yet. But would invite you to introduce the folks from EPA and have a clear explanation that you're not present to (make trouble but to learn) Ray Archaleta and John Tooker will be presenting on Soil Health and challenges with managing slugs in the morning. Lamonte Garber and others from Stroud will also be talking about streams /buffers etc. Programs that are available for cost share. We are also going to try and get Deputy Sec. Greg Hostetter and Karl Brown from the State Conservation District here to have dialogue about the Farmer recognition program they are trying to promote. This discussion would take place after lunch.

I am excited about Cosimo and Jeff coming to our farm. And probably not expecting too much in the way of speaking. I don't want farmers to get alarmed.

We don't plan to advertise them on less you feel differently.

I would be open to your thoughts.

Jim Hershey
No-Till & Cover Crop Consultant
Pa No-Till Alliance-President

338 Sunnyburn Rd
Elizabethtown, Pa 17022

[REDACTED] Ex. 6

[REDACTED] Ex. 6

-----Original Message-----

From: Shenk, Kelly [mailto:shenk.kelly@epa.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 7:52 AM

To: [REDACTED] Ex. 6; [REDACTED] Ex. 6

Subject: Itinerary for 3/12

Hi Kim and Jim! Thank you again for inviting us to participate and your shoptalk day. Do you have a sense of the itinerary and timing yet? I'm trying to coordinate our folks schedules and that would be helpful to us. K

Kelly Shenk EPA Region 3 Agriculture Advisor US EPA Water Protection Division shenk.kelly@epa.gov
(410) 267 5728

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

EPA Ag Roundtable at the “The PA No Till Alliance Town Hall Meeting” on Jim Hershey’s Farm March 12, 2018

Event: EPA Ag Roundtable at the “The PA No Till Alliance Town Hall Meeting” on Jim Hershey’s Farm

Location: Hershey Farm - 338 Sunnyburn Rd, Elizabethtown, Pa 17022 (Lancaster County)

Purpose: To hold an EPA Ag Roundtable with PA farmers. The EPA Ag Roundtable with Pennsylvania farmers will cover: EPA introductions, Agency priorities for agriculture, importance of keeping lines of communication open, and importance of 2-way dialogue to find ways to work together. PA farmers share with EPA what’s on their minds, ask questions about programs and policies, and discuss the successes and challenges of producing food for the community and achieving clean local waters. Listen and learn from PA farmers.

This is a full-day farmer event. The morning is focused on farmer education and training pertaining to soil health and buffers. The afternoon will cover the EPA Ag Roundtable and state agency discussions about a draft farmer recognition program.

Cosmo Servidio and Jeff Sands (to confirm) will attend lunch and the afternoon session. Kelly Shenk will attend the full event, including the morning training.

Time: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM – Lunch, EPA Ag Roundtable, and State Agency discussion about farmer recognition program.

Participants:

PA farmers – Total number TBD.
EPA Region III Administrator, Cosmo Servidio
EPA Region III Agriculture Advisor, Kelly Shenk
EPA Senior Advisor to the Administrator on Agriculture Policy, Jeff Sands (*to confirm*)
Deputy Agriculture Secretary, Greg Hostetter (*invited*)
Executive Secretary of PA State Conservation Commission, Karl Brown (*invited*)
Ray Archuleta, nationally renowned soil health expert, formerly with NRCS
John Tooker, Penn State University, soil health expert
Stroud Water Research Center

Points of Contact:

Kelly Shenk – EPA Region III Agriculture Advisor, (410) 267-5728, [HYPERLINK "mailto:Shenk.kelly@epa.gov"]

Jim Hershey – Pennsylvania No Till Alliance President, 338 Sunnyburn Rd, Elizabethtown, Pa 17022, [HYPERLINK "mailto:Ex. 6"] [HYPERLINK "mailto:Ex. 6"]

Jim Harbach – PA No Till Alliance Board Member, cell: [Ex. 6](#) [HYPERLINK
 "mailto:[Ex. 6](#)]

Itinerary: *Official program will be provided by PA No Till Alliance*

9am – 12 pm	Education & Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soil Health: Ray Archuleta, nationally renowned soil health expert formerly with NRCS, and John Tooker, Penn State University, will be presenting on how to achieve good soil health and maintain crop productivity. - Buffers: Stroud Water Research Center will discuss riparian buffers and programs available for cost-share. <p><i>Note: Kelly Shenk will participate in morning session to listen and learn.</i></p>
12 pm – 1pm	Lunch <p><i>Note: Cosmo Servidio and Jeff Sands (to confirm) will join Kelly Shenk at the event at 12PM and stay until 3PM. Lunch will be informal time to meet key PA farmers.</i></p>
1pm – 2 pm	Ag Roundtable with EPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EPA introductions, Agency priorities for agriculture, importance of keeping lines of communication open, and importance of 2-way dialogue to find ways to work together. - PA farmers share with EPA what's on their minds, ask questions about programs and policies, and discuss the successes and challenges of producing food for the community and achieving clean local waters.
2 pm – 3 pm	Farmer feedback on PA Farmer Recognition Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farmer discussion with PA Department of Agriculture and PA State Conservation Commission on the draft Pennsylvania Agriculture Conservation Stewardship program.
3:00 pm	Adjourn

Background:

Jim Hershey is President of Pennsylvania No Till Alliance. He runs Hershey Farms, a 600-acre livestock and grain operation in Elizabethtown, PA in Lancaster County. He also runs a crop management service. Hershey has been farming with no-till methods for more than 25 years and cover crop farming for 15 years. Jim Hershey is very active in providing farmer feedback on the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort.

Jim Harbach is a Board Member on Pennsylvania No Till Alliance. Jim operates Schrack Farms which won the 2018 Dairy Innovative Dairy Farm of the Year – nominated by PA Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding. The farm is a 1,000 head dairy with 2500 acres of cropland (corn, soybean, alfalfa, grass, and small grains), and a methane digester that provides energy for the farm. Jim uses no till and cover crops to improve soil health on his farm. Jim serves on PADEP's Agriculture Workgroup to develop the next version of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan.

EPA Ag Roundtables: EPA Region III has held over 20 agriculture roundtables and/or educational farm tours to foster candid, two-way dialogues between EPA and farmers on the successes and challenges of growing food for the community and having clean local streams. These conversations have helped to open up the lines of communication, address concerns, find common interests, and find better ways to work together to have well-managed farms and clean water.

PA Agriculture Conservation Stewardship Program: PA Department of Agriculture has developed a voluntary program to recognize farmers for their environmental stewardship. They are soliciting farmer feedback on the program before they launch it (likely at the August PA Ag Progress Days event). Currently the program is set up to recognize farmers who are in compliance with state regulations and implementing one additional practice.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

PA Deputy Ag Secretary Greg Hostetter and PA State Conservation Commission Executive Secretary Karl Brown are invited to discuss the program with farmers.

Likely Topics of Interest to PA Farmers:

- CERCLA/EPCRA Air Emission Reporting Requirements
- Waters of the U.S.
- Chesapeake Bay Restoration Effort – heavy reliance on agriculture
- Recognizing PA farmers for environmental stewardship
- CAFO General Permit – high permit fees
- Equity Among Large CAFOs and smaller PA operations in terms of environmental stewardship expectations

Message

From: Mortensen, Ginah [mortensen.ginah@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/8/2017 6:51:50 PM
To: Winnett, Steven [winnett.steven@epa.gov]; Heinemann, Kristina [Heinemann.Kristina@epa.gov]; Shenk, Kelly [shenk.kelly@epa.gov]; Robertson, Duane [Robertson.Duane@epa.gov]; Rush, Randall [Rush.Randall@epa.gov]; Flournoy, Karen [Flournoy.Karen@epa.gov]; Perrin, Rebecca [Perrin.Rebecca@epa.gov]; LUEHE, DOUGLAS [luehe.douglas@epa.gov]; Peak, Nicholas [Peak.Nicholas@epa.gov]; Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]; Ziobro, Joseph [Ziobro.Joseph@epa.gov]; Flahive, Katie [Flahive.Katie@epa.gov]; Larsen, Erika [Larsen.Erika@epa.gov]; Damico, Brian [Damico.Brian@epa.gov]; Dunkins, Robin [Dunkins.Robin@epa.gov]; Swackhammer, J-Troy [Swackhammer.J-Troy@epa.gov]; Galloway, Carol [Galloway.Carol@epa.gov]; Carbone, Chad [Carbone.Chad@epa.gov]; Culver, Edison [culver.edison@epa.gov]; Ferris, Lena [Ferris.Lena@epa.gov]; Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]; Sharpe, Kristinn [Sharpe.Kristinn@epa.gov]; Jacob, Sicy [Jacob.Sicy@epa.gov]; Jennings, Kim [Jennings.Kim@epa.gov]; Gioffre, Patricia [Gioffre.Patricia@epa.gov]; Nitsch, Chad [Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: PRO-DAIRY e-Alert: NMPF Air Emissions Reporting Recommendations

Hello Regional Ag Advisors,

Here is the Dairy Alert that Kristina Heinemann, Region 2 Ag Advisor, just mentioned (Thanks, Kristina!).

Thanks!

Ginah

Ginah Mortensen
913-551-5028

Attorney Advisor
Compliance Policy Staff
Monitoring, Assistance, and Media Programs Division
Office of Compliance

Director, EPA National Agriculture Center
1-888-663-2155
<http://www.epa.gov/agriculture>

To receive notifications about updates to the EPA agriculture website and EPA news items of interest to the ag community, subscribe to the Ag Center's News Service by sending a blank email to this address:
join-agcenter@lists.epa.gov

From: Heinemann, Kristina
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2017 12:37 PM
To: Mortensen, Ginah <mortensen.ginah@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: PRO-DAIRY e-Alert: NMPF Air Emissions Reporting Recommendations

Just got this – Ginah – are you able to forward to ag advisors ...

From: PRO-DAIRY [mailto:dmconf@cornell.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2017 12:31 PM
To: Heinemann, Kristina <Heinemann.Kristina@epa.gov>
Subject: PRO-DAIRY e-Alert: NMPF Air Emissions Reporting Recommendations



e-Alert

November 8, 2017

National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) recommends dairies DO NOT report air emissions just yet.

By: Karl Czymmek and Curt Gooch

Late yesterday afternoon, PRO-DAIRY staff spoke with NMPF legal counsel. There is a lot going on to address a range of concerns generated by EPA's emission reporting deadline under CERCLA that was announced on 10-26-17. EPA has filed a motion requesting that the court extend the stay on its mandate to end the 2008 exemption, which will trigger the reporting requirement. Specifically, the court asked for the November 15, 2017 deadline to be extended at least through January 17, 2018 to give EPA a chance to submit its interpretation that EPCRA 304 reporting is not necessary to a rulemaking process and to allow it to refine the CERCLA reporting form. This will also give farms time to understand the reporting requirements. For this reason, NMPF recommends that farms do NOT call the National Response Center (NRC) at least until November 15 and, then only if the court does not extend the deadline. Reportedly, some dairy farms in the US have called and this has prompted unannounced response by police and/or fire departments.

In the meantime, farms can discuss an approach with legal counsel and may consider an estimation tool to use when the time comes. EPA has indicated that a good faith estimate of emissions includes use of a range of methods or tools. EPA has provided, and NMPF also supports, using the emissions estimation factors for ammonia and hydrogen sulfide that are found on the last page of the document at the [Dairy Operation – Continuous Release Report Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act \(EPCRA\) link](#).

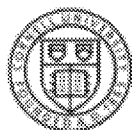
Using the high daily emissions factor from the link above, it would take 1,428 cows to trigger the 100 pounds of ammonia threshold. The advantage of the document is ease of use (one high and low threshold factor for total herd count) and it also includes an emissions factor for hydrogen sulfide. Depending on farm goals and risk assessment, producers may consider estimating ammonia emissions by using the [University of Nebraska worksheet](#) (also provided on the EPA website), or the [PRO-DAIRY dairy specific ammonia worksheet](#) based on the University of Nebraska tool.

When we last visited the hydrogen sulfide emissions topic in 2009, we concluded that it would take several thousand cows to trigger the 100 pound daily emission threshold. As a result, in any situation we can imagine, ammonia emissions should trigger the reporting threshold well before hydrogen sulfide.

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For more information about PRO-DAIRY, go to: <http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/>

[Julie Berry, Editor](#) [Tom Overton, Director](#) [Facebook](#)



Cornell CALS
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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Message

From: Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/8/2017 2:58:03 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: NCAP v. NMFS, No. 07-1791 (W.D. Wash.) - motion to amend settlement agreement
Attachments: WILDLIFE-#301864-v1-Marietta_Affidavit_11_07_17_clean.DOC; ATT00001.htm; WILDLIFE-#301863-v1-Rauch_Affidavit_11_7_17_clean.DOCX; ATT00002.htm

FYI- please send comments to Mark Dyner.

Sent from my iPhone, please excuse typos.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Dyner, Mark" <dyner.mark@epa.gov>
Date: November 8, 2017 at 10:38:11 PM GMT+8
To: "Baptist, Erik" <baptist.erik@epa.gov>, "Echeverria, Marietta" <Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov>, "Keigwin, Richard" <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>, "Layne, Arnold" <Layne.Arnold@epa.gov>, "Guilaran, Yu-Ting" <Guilaran.Yu-Ting@epa.gov>, "Beck, Nancy" <Beck.Nancy@epa.gov>, "Anderson, Brian" <Anderson.Brian@epa.gov>, "Villanueva, Philip" <Villanueva.Philip@epa.gov>
Cc: "McClean, Kevin" <McClean.Kevin@epa.gov>, "Knorr, Michele" <knorr.michele@epa.gov>, "Perlis, Robert" <Perlis.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: NCAP v. NMFS, No. 07-1791 (W.D. Wash.) - motion to amend settlement agreement

Privileged/attorney-client communication/attorney work product/do not disclose

All,

Ex. 5 AC/AWP/DP

In any case, I need to get back to DOJ by 3pm with our comments, so I need any comments folks have by not later than 2pm so I can incorporate your edits into the drafts. Sorry for the rush. Thanks.

Mark

From: Grosko, Brett (ENRD) [mailto:Brett.Grosko@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2017 8:16 PM
To: Daniel Pollak - NOAA Federal (daniel.pollak@noaa.gov) <daniel.pollak@noaa.gov>; Dyner, Mark <dyner.mark@epa.gov>; Nancy Brown-Kobil <nancy.brown-kobil@sol.doi.gov>; Romanik, Peg <peg.romanik@sol.doi.gov>; Shultz, Gina <gina_shultz@fws.gov>
Cc: Govindan, Jay (ENRD) <Jay.Govindan@usdoj.gov>
Subject: NCAP v. NMFS, No. 07-1791 (W.D. Wash.) - motion to amend settlement agreement

All,

I am sending the draft Rauch and Echeverria declarations. Please send this up your chain of command for review and comment as appropriate. Please let us know by 3:00 p.m. EDT if you have any global objections.

Ex. 5 AC/AWP/DP

Brett

J. Brett Grosko
Senior Trial Attorney
U.S. Department of Justice
Environment and Natural Resources Division
Wildlife and Marine Resources Section
601 D St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20004
Tel: **Ex. 6** (c)

Message

From: Shenk, Kelly [shenk.kelly@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/20/2018 5:21:41 PM
To: Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
CC: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Itinerary for 3/12
Attachments: EPA Ag Roundtable at Hershey Farm_March 12 2018.docx

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Acting Special Assistant to the Senior Advisor for Agriculture Office of the Administrator U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Phone (202) 564-5041
subramanian.hema@epa.gov

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Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 3:50 PM
To: Subramanian, Hema <Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Itinerary for 3/12

Kelly Shenk
Agriculture Advisor
EPA Region III Water Protection Division shenk.kelly@epa.gov
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Agriculture Advisor
EPA Region III Water Protection Division shenk.kelly@epa.gov
410.267.5728

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Jim Hershey
No-Till & Cover Crop Consultant
Pa No-Till Alliance-President

338 Sunnyburn Rd
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Ex. 6

Ex. 6

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Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 7:52 AM

To: Ex. 6 Ex. 6

Subject: Itinerary for 3/12

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Kelly Shenk EPA Region 3 Agriculture Advisor US EPA Water Protection Division shenk.kelly@epa.gov
(410) 267 5728

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<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

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Event: EPA Ag Roundtable at the “The PA No Till Alliance Town Hall Meeting” on Jim Hershey’s Farm

Location: Hershey Farm - 338 Sunnyburn Rd, Elizabethtown, Pa 17022 (Lancaster County)

Purpose: To hold an EPA Ag Roundtable with PA farmers. The EPA Ag Roundtable with Pennsylvania farmers will cover: EPA introductions, Agency priorities for agriculture, importance of keeping lines of communication open, and importance of 2-way dialogue to find ways to work together. PA farmers share with EPA what’s on their minds, ask questions about programs and policies, and discuss the successes and challenges of producing food for the community and achieving clean local waters. Listen and learn from PA farmers.

This is a full-day farmer event. The morning is focused on farmer education and training pertaining to soil health and buffers. The afternoon will cover the EPA Ag Roundtable and state agency discussions about a draft farmer recognition program.

Cosmo Servidio and Jeff Sands (to confirm) will attend lunch and the afternoon session. Kelly Shenk will attend the full event, including the morning training.

Time: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM – Lunch, EPA Ag Roundtable, and State Agency discussion about farmer recognition program.

Participants:

PA farmers – Total number TBD.
EPA Region III Administrator, Cosmo Servidio
EPA Region III Agriculture Advisor, Kelly Shenk
EPA Senior Advisor to the Administrator on Agriculture Policy, Jeff Sands (*to confirm*)
Deputy Agriculture Secretary, Greg Hostetter (*invited*)
Executive Secretary of PA State Conservation Commission, Karl Brown (*invited*)
Ray Archuleta, nationally renowned soil health expert, formerly with NRCS
John Tooker, Penn State University, soil health expert
Stroud Water Research Center

Points of Contact:

Kelly Shenk – EPA Region III Agriculture Advisor, (410) 267-5728, [HYPERLINK "mailto:Shenk.kelly@epa.gov"]

Jim Hershey – Pennsylvania No Till Alliance President, 338 Sunnyburn Rd, Elizabethtown, Pa 17022, [HYPERLINK "mailto:Ex. 6"]

Jim Harbach – PA No Till Alliance Board Member, cell: [Ex. 6](#) [HYPERLINK
 "mailto:[Ex. 6](#)]

Itinerary: *Official program will be provided by PA No Till Alliance*

9am – 12 pm	Education & Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soil Health: Ray Archuleta, nationally renowned soil health expert formerly with NRCS, and John Tooker, Penn State University, will be presenting on how to achieve good soil health and maintain crop productivity. - Buffers: Stroud Water Research Center will discuss riparian buffers and programs available for cost-share. <p><i>Note: Kelly Shenk will participate in morning session to listen and learn.</i></p>
12 pm – 1pm	Lunch <p><i>Note: Cosmo Servidio and Jeff Sands (to confirm) will join Kelly Shenk at the event at 12PM and stay until 3PM. Lunch will be informal time to meet key PA farmers.</i></p>
1pm – 2 pm	Ag Roundtable with EPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EPA introductions, Agency priorities for agriculture, importance of keeping lines of communication open, and importance of 2-way dialogue to find ways to work together. - PA farmers share with EPA what's on their minds, ask questions about programs and policies, and discuss the successes and challenges of producing food for the community and achieving clean local waters.
2 pm – 3 pm	Farmer feedback on PA Farmer Recognition Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farmer discussion with PA Department of Agriculture and PA State Conservation Commission on the draft Pennsylvania Agriculture Conservation Stewardship program.
3:00 pm	Adjourn

Background:

Jim Hershey is President of Pennsylvania No Till Alliance. He runs Hershey Farms, a 600-acre livestock and grain operation in Elizabethtown, PA in Lancaster County. He also runs a crop management service. Hershey has been farming with no-till methods for more than 25 years and cover crop farming for 15 years. Jim Hershey is very active in providing farmer feedback on the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort.

Jim Harbach is a Board Member on Pennsylvania No Till Alliance. Jim operates Schrack Farms which won the 2018 Dairy Innovative Dairy Farm of the Year – nominated by PA Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding. The farm is a 1,000 head dairy with 2500 acres of cropland (corn, soybean, alfalfa, grass, and small grains), and a methane digester that provides energy for the farm. Jim uses no till and cover crops to improve soil health on his farm. Jim serves on PADEP's Agriculture Workgroup to develop the next version of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan.

EPA Ag Roundtables: EPA Region III has held over 20 agriculture roundtables and/or educational farm tours to foster candid, two-way dialogues between EPA and farmers on the successes and challenges of growing food for the community and having clean local streams. These conversations have helped to open up the lines of communication, address concerns, find common interests, and find better ways to work together to have well-managed farms and clean water.

PA Agriculture Conservation Stewardship Program: PA Department of Agriculture has developed a voluntary program to recognize farmers for their environmental stewardship. They are soliciting farmer feedback on the program before they launch it (likely at the August PA Ag Progress Days event). Currently the program is set up to recognize farmers who are in compliance with state regulations and implementing one additional practice.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

PA Deputy Ag Secretary Greg Hostetter and PA State Conservation Commission Executive Secretary Karl Brown are invited to discuss the program with farmers.

Likely Topics of Interest to PA Farmers:

- CERCLA/EPCRA Air Emission Reporting Requirements
- Waters of the U.S.
- Chesapeake Bay Restoration Effort – heavy reliance on agriculture
- Recognizing PA farmers for environmental stewardship
- CAFO General Permit – high permit fees
- Equity Among Large CAFOs and smaller PA operations in terms of environmental stewardship expectations

Message

From: Nitsch, Chad [Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/7/2017 9:48:22 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: Draft FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan
Attachments: EPA-HQ-OA-2017-0533-0002.pdf

Evening reading...

Chad Nitsch
Intergovernmental Relations | State and Regional Partnerships
United States Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-4714

**Draft FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan
Public Review Draft**

October 2, 2017

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460**

Administrator's Message

(Reserved for final)

Introduction

EPA's Mission: To Protect Human Health and the Environment

Goal 1 – Core Mission: Deliver real results to provide Americans with clean air, land, and water.

Goal 2 – Cooperative Federalism: Rebalance the power between Washington and the states to create tangible environmental results for the American people.

Goal 3 – Rule of Law and Process: Administer the law, as Congress intended, to refocus the Agency on its statutory obligations under the law.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed this *FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan* (the *Plan*) to: (1) refocus the Agency back to its core mission; (2) restore power to the states through cooperative federalism; and (3) lead the Agency through improved processes and adhere to the rule of law. The *FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan* sharply refocuses EPA on its role of supporting the primary implementers of environmental programs—states and tribes—by streamlining programs and processes, reducing duplication of effort, and providing greater transparency and listening opportunities, enabling the Agency to focus on its core mission work. Process, the rule of law, and cooperative federalism are necessary for an efficient and effective Agency to provide tangible and real environmental results to the American people.

EPA's senior managers will use this *Plan* routinely as a management tool to guide the Agency's path forward, tracking progress and assessing and addressing risks and challenges that could potentially interfere with EPA's ability to accomplish its goals. The three strategic goals established in the *Plan* are supported by strategic objectives and strategic measures focused on advancing human health and environmental end results over the next four years.¹ These longer-term strategic measures are supported by annual measures included in the annual performance plans and budgets that EPA submits to Congress. Operational measures, which rely heavily on regional, state, tribal, and local partner contributions, support achievement of the annual measures. The strategies and strategic measures in this *Plan* highlight key areas in which the Agency will make the most dramatic changes over the next four years, while the annual performance plans and budgets, and supporting annual and operational measures, address a broader range of the Agency's work. In addition, the Agency will hold quarterly and monthly meetings to help assess progress toward annual and long-term strategic measures.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has established two-year agency priority goals (APGs) for accelerating progress on EPA priorities. APGs reflect the top near-term implementation performance improvement priorities of an agency's leadership. EPA's APGs have been selected from among the suite of strategic measures. These priority goals will be supported by two-year implementation plans and quarterly reporting.

¹ EPA is working to develop targets for the strategic measures, and baseline and universe information to support them.

FY 2018-2019 Agency Priority Goals

- Reduce the number of non-attainment areas.
- Increase the percentage of water infrastructure projects funded through EPA grants, loans, or public-private partnerships that achieve or maintain compliance.
- Make additional brownfields sites ready for anticipated use (RAU) and additional Superfund sites RAU site-wide.
- Complete (1) EPA-initiated Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) risk evaluations for existing chemicals, (2) TSCA risk management actions for existing chemicals, and (3) TSCA pre-manufacture notice final determinations in accordance with the timelines set forth in the statute.
- Increase the amount of non-EPA resources leveraged by projects receiving EPA infrastructure investments.
- Accelerate permitting-related decisions.

The *FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan* is supported by other, more detailed Agency plans in specific areas. For example, EPA's Human Capital Operating Plan details the actions the Agency will execute to achieve its overarching human capital goals, and its Information Technology/Information Management Strategic Plan will guide efforts to support and modernize its technology and data infrastructure. The Agency's workforce and reform efforts will support streamlining efforts to work more efficiently and effectively in the future. The many efforts described in these plans align with and help position the Agency to achieve the strategic goals and objectives presented in this *Plan*.

EPA is also in the process of deploying a Lean management system specifically designed to deliver measurable results that align with this *Plan*. Lean is a set of principles and tools designed to identify and eliminate waste from processes while maximizing customer value and return on taxpayer investment. Under Administrator Scott Pruitt's leadership, EPA will become a Lean organization.

Strategies to achieve EPA's goals and objectives are also informed by gathering evidence related to environmental problems and evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies that the programs use to address them. Examples of recent evidence and evaluation efforts used to develop this *FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan* and a preliminary list of future planned efforts can be found at [Note: Add link when information available].

The GPRA (Government Performance and Results Act) Modernization Act of 2010 directs agencies to consult with the Congress and requires that they solicit and consider the views and suggestions of those entities likely to be interested in or potentially affected by a strategic plan. Consultation with EPA's federal, state, local, and tribal government partners and our many stakeholders is integral to the Agency's strategic planning process. In developing the *FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan*, EPA issued a *Federal Register* notice and used www.regulations.gov to encourage and share feedback on the draft *Plan*. The Agency also sent notifications on the availability of the draft *Plan* to leaders of the Agency's Congressional authorizing, appropriations, and oversight committees, and notified all federally-recognized Indian tribes of the opportunity for consultation. These outreach efforts resulted in comments from approximately XXX organizations and individuals.

Goal 1 - Core Mission:
Deliver real results to provide Americans with clean air, land, and water.

Pollution comes in many forms with myriad impacts on human health and the environment. With the goal of clean and safe air, water, and land for all Americans, Congress enacted a range of environmental statutes that spell out EPA's core responsibilities. Our nation has come a long way since EPA was established in 1970. We have made great progress in making rivers and lakes safe for swimming and boating, reducing the smog that clouded city skies, cleaning up lands that were once used as hidden chemical dumps, and providing Americans greater access to information on the safety of the chemicals all around us. Today we can see enormous progress—yet we still have important work to do.

EPA has established priorities for advancing progress over the next four years in each of its core mission areas—land, air, water—as well as chemicals. The Agency will focus on speeding the cleanup of Superfund and brownfields sites, and will use a top ten list of sites to advance progress on Superfund sites of particular concern. We will work with states to more rapidly approve state implementation plans for attaining air quality standards, reducing contaminants that can cause or exacerbate health issues. We will achieve clean and safe water by updating aging infrastructure, both for drinking water and wastewater systems. And EPA's top priority for ensuring the safety of chemicals in the marketplace is the implementation of the new Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, which modernizes the Toxic Substances and Control Act (TSCA) by creating new standards and processes for assessing chemical safety within specific deadlines. These efforts will be supported by strong compliance assurance and enforcement in collaboration with our state and tribal partners, and use of the best available science and research to address current and future environmental hazards, develop new approaches, and improve the foundation for decision making.

The Agency will collaborate more efficiently and effectively with other federal agencies, states, sovereign tribal nations, local governments, communities, and other partners and stakeholders to address existing pollution and prevent future problems. EPA will directly implement federal environmental laws on Indian lands where tribes have not taken on program responsibility. With our partners, we will pay particular attention to vulnerable populations. Children and the elderly, for example, may be at significantly greater risk from elevated exposure or increased susceptibility to the harmful effects of environmental contaminants. Some low-income and minority communities may face greater risks because of proximity to contaminated sites or because fewer resources are available to avoid exposure to pollutants. Much work remains, and together with our partners, we will continue making progress in protecting human health and the environment.

Objective 1.1 - Improve Air Quality:

Work with states to accurately measure air quality and ensure that more Americans are living and working in areas that meet high air quality standards.

Introduction

As part of its mission to protect human health and the environment, EPA is dedicated to improving the quality of the nation's air. From 1970 to 2016, aggregate national emissions of the six criteria air pollutants² were reduced over 70 percent, while gross domestic product grew by over 253 percent. Despite this progress, in 2016, more than 120 million people (about 40 percent of the U.S. population) lived in counties with monitored air at values greater than EPA regulations for at least one criteria pollutant. EPA's work to control emissions of air pollutants is critical to continued progress in reducing public health risks and improving the quality of the environment. Over the next four years, EPA will conduct a wide range of activities that contribute to improving air quality and protecting human health and the environment.

Strategic Measure

- Reduce the number of non-attainment areas.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

EPA works in cooperation with states, tribes, and local governments to design and implement air quality standards and programs. EPA relies on other federal agencies, academia, researchers, industry, other organizations and the public. These partnerships are critical to achieving improvements in air quality and reducing public health risks.

EPA will prioritize key activities to support attainment of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) and implementation of stationary source regulations. The Agency will address its Clean Air Act (CAA) responsibilities by collaborating with and providing technical assistance to states and tribes to develop plans and implement decisions that administer the NAAQS and visibility programs; taking federal oversight actions such as approving state implementation plan/tribal implementation plan (SIP/TIP) submittals consistent with statutory obligations; developing regulations and guidance to implement standards; and addressing transported air pollution. EPA will focus on ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the SIP/TIP process, including the Agency's own review process, with a goal of maximizing timely processing of state/tribal-requested implementation plan actions to help states move more quickly to attainment.

EPA will operate effective nationwide and multi-state programs, such as the acid rain program and the cross-state air pollution rule, which address global, national, and regional air pollutants from the power sector and other large stationary sources. The Agency also will develop and provide data, analysis, and technical tools and assistance to industries, states, communities, and tribes to meet CAA obligations and other statutory requirements.

EPA also develops, implements, and ensures compliance with national emission standards to reduce mobile-source-related air pollution from light-duty cars and trucks, heavy-duty trucks and buses, nonroad

² The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six common air pollutants including carbon monoxide, lead, ground-level ozone, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide.

engines and vehicles, and their fuels—a priority for the Agency to ensure that industry has the certainty it needs while protecting human health and the environment. The Agency evaluates new emission control technology and provides information to state, tribal, and local air quality managers on a variety of transportation programs. EPA will review and approve vehicle and engine emissions certification applications and perform its compliance oversight functions on priority matters where there is evidence to suggest noncompliance. The Agency will also conduct pre-certification confirmatory testing for emissions and fuel economy for passenger cars.

EPA develops and implements national emission standards for stationary and mobile sources and works with state and local air agencies to address air toxics problems in communities. For stationary sources, pursuant to the CAA, EPA develops initial air toxics emissions standards for categories of industrial sources and reviews these standards' risk reduction and technological currency according to timeframes set by the Act. EPA will conduct these reviews to meet CAA requirements and to ensure that the air toxics rules appropriately protect public health.

To support our partners in meeting their CAA obligations, EPA will provide grants and technical assistance to state, local, and tribal air pollution control agencies to manage and implement their individual air quality programs, including funding for air quality monitoring. State and tribal air quality monitoring, which provides critical information for developing clean air plans, for research, and for public awareness, will be a focus of the Administration.

EPA will prioritize efforts to reduce the production, import, and use of ozone depleting substances (ODS), including reviewing and listing alternatives that are safer for the stratospheric ozone layer through implementation of Title VI of the CAA and the Montreal Protocol.

EPA also is responsible for measuring and monitoring ambient radiation and radioactive materials and assessing radioactive contamination in the environment. The Agency supports federal radiological emergency response and recovery operations under the National Response Framework and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan. EPA will design essential training and conduct exercises to improve our nation's radiation response preparedness.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

Emerging measurement and information technologies are shifting the paradigm for air quality data. Traditionally, states, along with EPA, have been the primary resource for collecting, storing, sharing, and communicating air data. Increasingly, air quality information is also available from nontraditional sources, such as satellites or sensors. Additionally, big data companies are becoming involved in storing, analyzing, and presenting publicly available air quality data alongside other datasets. These developments are expected to have profound influence on understanding air quality, as well as determining the most cost-effective ways to improve air quality. EPA partners with states, through efforts such as E-Enterprise, and with other entities in a variety of ways to ensure that the Agency advances appropriate technologies and stays abreast of emerging technologies.

EPA engages in both domestic and international forums to address the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer, a global problem that cannot be solved by domestic action alone. Success relies on joint action.

Lastly, there are several emerging issues and external factors that will affect how EPA protects the public from unnecessary exposure to radiation, including evolving policies on radioactive waste management; uranium extraction and processing technologies; a decrease in available radiation expertise; and new science on radiation health effects. The Agency will focus on continuing education, including formal and

informal training, in the areas of health physics, radiation science, radiation risk communications, and emergency response to fill existing and emerging gaps.

Objective 1.2 - Provide for Clean and Safe Water:

Ensure waters are clean through improved water infrastructure and, in partnership with states and tribes, sustainably manage programs to support drinking water, aquatic ecosystems, and recreational, economic, and subsistence activities.

Introduction

The nation's water resources are the lifeblood of our communities, supporting our economy and way of life. Across most of the country, we enjoy and depend upon reliable sources of clean and safe water. Just a few decades ago, many of the nation's rivers, lakes, and estuaries were grossly polluted, wastewater sources received little or no treatment, and drinking water systems provided very limited treatment to water coming through the tap. Now over 90 percent of the population receives safe drinking water from community water systems regulated by EPA or delegated states, and many formerly impaired waters have been restored and support recreational and public health uses that contribute to healthy economies.

We have made significant progress since enactment of the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act. However, serious water resource and water infrastructure challenges remain. Many communities need to improve and maintain both drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and develop the capacity to comply with new and existing standards. Tens of thousands of homes, primarily in tribal and disadvantaged communities and the territories, lack access to basic sanitation and drinking water.

Over the next four years, EPA will work with states, territories, tribes, and local communities to better safeguard human health; maintain, restore, and improve water quality; and make America's water systems sustainable and secure, supporting new technology and innovation wherever possible.

Strategic Measures

- Reduce the number of community water systems out of compliance with health-based standards.
- Increase the percentage of water infrastructure projects funded through EPA grants, loans, or public-private partnerships that achieve or maintain compliance.
- Reduce the number of square miles of watershed with surface water not meeting standards.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Invest in infrastructure to spur environmental benefits and economic growth

Supporting state and local efforts to modernize the outdated drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure on which the American public depends is a top priority for EPA. The Agency will promote construction of infrastructure in small, rural, and disadvantaged communities. EPA will support the state revolving fund (SRF) and Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) programs that will allow the Agency, states, municipalities, and private entities to finance high-priority infrastructure investments that protect human health and the environment. The revolving nature of the SRFs and the leveraging capacity of WIFIA greatly multiply the federal investment. For the clean water SRF, EPA estimates that every federal dollar contributed thus far has resulted in close to three dollars of investment in water infrastructure. For the drinking water SRF, for every one dollar the federal government invests, the states, in total, have been able to deliver \$1.80 in assistance to drinking water systems. For WIFIA, for

every \$20 million in appropriations, EPA could potentially provide approximately \$1 billion in credit assistance, which could spur an estimated \$2 billion in total infrastructure investment.

Protect Human Health

Sustaining the quality of our water resources is essential to safeguarding human health. More than 300 million people living in the United States rely on the safety of tap water provided by public water systems that are subject to national drinking water standards. EPA will help protect human health and make America's water systems secure by:

- Providing financial assistance to states to assist public water systems in protecting and maintaining drinking water quality;
- Strengthening compliance with drinking water standards to ensure protection of public health by enhancing the technical, managerial, and financial capability of those systems;
- Continuing to protect and restore water resources, including sources of drinking water, from contamination;
- Taking actions to address known and emerging contaminants that endanger human health;
- Supporting states, tribes, territories, and local communities in implementing water programs by providing guidance, training, and information;
- Ensuring the security and preparedness of the nation's drinking water supplies by implementing EPA's national security responsibilities for the water sector; and
- Protecting underground sources of drinking water by providing for the safe injection of fluids underground for storage, disposal, enhanced recovery of oil and gas, or minerals recovery.

Recent challenges in Flint, Michigan and elsewhere have highlighted the need to strengthen EPA's implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure we protect and build upon the enormous public health benefits achieved through the provision of safe drinking water throughout the country. The Agency's highest priorities include reducing exposure to lead in the nation's drinking water systems, ensuring continuous compliance with contaminant limits, responding quickly to emerging concerns, and improving the nation's aging and insufficient drinking water infrastructure to address significant needs. EPA is also collaborating with states and tribes to share more complete data from monitoring at public water systems through the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS). This will allow for better targeting of federal and state funding and technical assistance resources, and improve data quality while increasing public access to drinking water data.

Human health and recreational criteria are the foundation for state and tribal tools to safeguard human health. Over the next four years we will improve our understanding of emerging potential waterborne threats to human health, provide technical assistance and resources to help the states monitor and prevent harmful exposures, and develop new or revised criteria as needed.

Protect and Restore Water Quality

Protecting the nation's waters relies on cooperation among EPA, states, tribes, and local communities and involves a suite of programs to protect and improve water quality in the country's rivers, lakes, wetlands, and streams, as well as in estuarine, coastal, and ocean waters. EPA will foster strong partnerships with other federal agencies, states, tribes, local governments, and other organizations that facilitate achieving water quality goals while supporting robust economic growth. In partnership with states, territories, local governments, and tribes, EPA core water programs will:

- Develop recommended water quality criteria for protecting designated uses of water;

- Assist states in adopting water quality standards that support designated uses;
- Establish pollution reduction targets for impaired waters;
- Improve water quality by financing traditional and nature-based wastewater treatment infrastructure;
- Develop national effluent guidelines that set a technology-based floor;
- Work with partners to protect and restore wetlands and coastal and ocean water resources;
- Prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants;
- Update analytical methods that enable precise analysis; and
- Conduct monitoring and assessment so we know the status of the nation's waters.

EPA will partner with states and tribes to implement the National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS)³ to provide nationally-consistent and scientifically-defensible assessments of America's waters. These surveys will support EPA and its partners in identifying actions to protect and restore water quality and in assessing whether these efforts are improving water quality over time.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

Water quality programs face challenges such as increases in nutrient loadings, nonpoint source⁴ and stormwater runoff, and aging infrastructure. EPA is carefully examining the potential impacts of and solutions to these issues. Many important water quality problems have complex causes that can only be addressed through strategic use of both state and federal authorities. EPA will work closely with states and tribes to ensure that these issues are addressed in a coordinated and effective manner, particularly where water quality issues cross state lines. The Agency will implement the National Aquatic Resource Surveys to support collection of nationally-consistent data to support these efforts.

EPA is working with external partners and stakeholders to address the barriers to and incentives for ways that technology and innovation can accelerate improvements in water infrastructure and protection and restoration of waters. Some key market opportunities for innovative practices and technology to help address current and emerging water resource issues are identified in EPA's Blueprint for Integrating Technology Innovation into the National Water Program.⁵

³ Read more on NARS: <https://www.epa.gov/national-aquatic-resource-surveys>

⁴ Read more about nonpoint source pollution: <https://www.epa.gov/nps>

⁵ Read more about the technology blueprint: <https://www.epa.gov/innovation/water-technology-innovation-blueprints>

Objective 1.3 - Revitalize Land and Prevent Contamination:

Provide better leadership and management to properly clean up contaminated sites to revitalize and return the land back to communities.

Introduction

EPA works to improve the health and livelihood of all Americans by cleaning up and returning land to productive use, preventing contamination, and responding to emergencies. Challenging and complex environmental problems persist at many contaminated properties, including contaminated soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater that can cause human health concerns.

One of EPA's top priorities is accelerating progress on Superfund sites. EPA recently convened a Superfund Task Force that identified 42 recommendations to streamline and improve the Superfund process. Over the next four years, these recommendations and other innovative ideas will be considered and applied to Superfund sites with priority given to addressing National Priority List (NPL) sites.⁶

EPA collaborates with other federal agencies, industry, states, tribes, and local communities to enhance the livability and economic vitality of neighborhoods. The Agency works with international, state, tribal, and local governments, and other federal agencies to achieve goals and help communities understand and address risks posed by releases of hazardous substances into the environment. EPA's efforts are guided by scientific data, tools, and research that inform decisions on addressing contaminated properties and preparing for and addressing emerging contaminants.

Strategic Measures

- Make additional Superfund sites ready for anticipated use (RAU) site-wide.
- Make additional brownfields sites 'RAU.
- Make additional Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) corrective action facilities RAU.
- Complete additional leaking underground storage tank (LUST) cleanups that meet risk-based standards for human exposure and groundwater migration.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Cleaning Up Contaminated Sites

Over the next four years, EPA will focus special attention on the Administrator's top ten list of Superfund sites and will implement Superfund Task Force recommendations to accelerate the pace of cleanups and promote reuse while addressing risks to human health and the environment. Cleanup actions can take from a few months for relatively straight-forward soil excavation or capping remedies to several decades for complex, large, area-wide groundwater, sediment, or mining remedies. NPL sites in the investigation stages will be expedited by developing strategies that apply new technologies and innovative approaches. NPL sites at which remedies have already been selected will be prioritized for faster completion and

⁶ Please see the Superfund Task Force Recommendations at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-07/documents/superfund_task_force_report.pdf

deletion from the NPL, as will sites that have been on the NPL for five years or longer without significant movement. Finally, the Agency will aim to accelerate cleanup by re-prioritizing some resources to focus on remedial actions, construction completions, ready-for-reuse determinations, and NPL site deletions.

In addition, EPA will work with communities to revitalize their brownfields sites and return them to productive use, advancing environmental and human health protection while stimulating economic development and job creation. EPA will award competitive grants to communities, states, and tribes to assess, clean up, and plan reuse of brownfields properties that are contaminated or perceived to be contaminated. To reduce risks from exposure to waste, consistent with RCRA, EPA or authorized states will oversee and manage cleanups by the owner or operator at 3,779 priority facilities. And EPA will support, along with its state and tribal partners, the cleanup of LUST sites and work to revitalize abandoned facilities. These cleanups protect people from exposure to contaminants, and can improve property values⁷ and provide redevelopment opportunities.

Preparedness and Response

EPA prepares⁸ for the possibility of nationally-significant incidents and provides guidance and technical assistance to state, tribal, and local planning and response organizations to strengthen their preparedness. During an incident, EPA works to prevent, mitigate, or contain the release of chemical, oil, radiological, biological, or hazardous materials. The Agency will work with industry, states, tribes, and local communities to ensure national safety and security for responses. EPA homeland security research fills critical scientific and technological gaps, enhancing the Agency's ability to carry out its mandated national preparedness and emergency response and recovery obligations, and informing disaster response and guidance. EPA develops the tools, methods, and data needed to implement our environmental statutes effectively and support EPA and local emergency responders in characterizing chemical, biological, or radiological (CBR) contamination, assessing exposure and risks to human health, cleaning up impacted urban areas, and improving community resilience.

Preventing Contamination

With its state and tribal partners, EPA works to prevent releases of contamination, allowing the productive use of facilities and land and contributing to communities' economic vitality. In partnership with tribes, the Agency directly provides training, compliance assistance, and inspection support to implement the 2015 underground storage tank (UST) regulations in Indian country. EPA also helps to prevent chemical releases by reviewing approximately 12,500 risk management plans (RMPs) and delivering RMP inspector training for federal and state inspectors. EPA seeks to prevent and prepare for accidental releases from chemical facilities that store hazardous chemicals by requiring chemical facilities that store a certain amount of hazardous chemicals to analyze the potential for accidental releases and possible consequences, develop an accident prevention program, and coordinate with communities to ensure that all are prepared to respond to a release.

EPA will update and improve the efficiency of the RCRA hazardous waste regulations to meet the needs of today's business and industry to ensure protective standards for managing hazardous waste. To prevent future environmental contamination and to protect the health of the estimated 20 million people living

⁷ A 2016 study found that high profile UST releases decrease nearby property values by 4% - 6%. Once cleanup is completed, nearby property values rebound by a similar margin. (Guignet, D; Martinez-Cruz, A 2016. Working Paper: The Impacts of Underground Petroleum Release on a Homeowner's Decision to Sell: A Difference-in-Difference Approach. NCEE Working Paper Series) Available at: <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-economics/working-paper-impacts-underground-petroleum-releases-homeowners-decision>

⁸ This work will be done consistent with the government-wide National Response Framework and the National Disaster Recovery Framework.

within a mile of a hazardous waste management facility,⁹ EPA will support states to issue, update, or maintain RCRA permits for the approximately 20,000 hazardous waste units (such as incinerators and landfills) at these facilities. EPA also will issue polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) cleanup, storage, and disposal approvals, since this work cannot be delegated to states or tribes.

EPA will improve and modernize hazardous waste transportation and tracking by implementing the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest Establishment Act, enacted on October 5, 2012. The fee-based e-Manifest system will provide better knowledge of waste generation and final disposition, enhanced access to manifest information, and greater transparency for the public about hazardous waste shipments, and will reduce the burden associated with paper manifests by between 300,000 and 700,000 hours.¹⁰

As authorized in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016, EPA will help states develop plans, work to approve state permit programs for coal ash disposal, coordinate closely with the states on guidance for evaluating state permit programs, and implement a coal ash permit program in Indian country.

Over the next four years, EPA will provide technical assistance, assets, and outreach to industry, states, and local communities as part of its effort to ensure national safety and security for inland oil incidents. There are approximately 580,000 spill prevention, control, and countermeasure facilities, including a high-risk subset of 4,600 facility response plan facilities required to ensure that resources will be available to respond in the event of a discharge.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

A number of factors may delay cleanup timelines. For example, new scientific information (such as new toxicity information or a new analytical method) can call previous determinations into question. In general, cleanup standards have become more stringent over the years, and discovery of new pathways and emerging contaminants (such as vapor intrusion and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances [PFAS]) have made remediation of remaining Superfund sites more challenging. Many of the Superfund sites remaining on the National Priorities List—including sediment, mining, and large groundwater sites—are large, contain multiple areas of contamination, and require more complex remediation efforts. Discovery of new sites, newly detected contamination, or emerging contaminants can also impact cleanup schedules.

Several external factors and emerging issues may affect the overall success of EPA's waste management and chemical facility risk programs. Rapidly changing technology, emerging new waste streams, and aging infrastructure present challenges, as does the complexity of issues and consideration of specific solutions for varying waste streams and situations.

The Agency recognizes that our state, tribal, local, and regional government partners face challenges in fully characterizing environmental outcomes associated with land. Over the next four years, EPA will emphasize the importance of engaging stakeholders at all levels and from all perspectives in making cleanup and land revitalization decisions.

⁹ U.S. EPA, Office of Land and Emergency Management Estimate. 2014. Data collected includes: (1) site information as of the end of FY 2011 from RCRAInfo; and (2) census data from the 2007-2011 American Community Survey.

¹⁰ From a 2009 programmatic estimate, cited in *Hazardous Waste Management System; Modification of the Hazardous Waste Manifest System; Electronic Manifests; Final Rule*. 40 CFR § 260, 262, 263, 264, 265, and 271.

Objective 1.4 - Ensure Safety of Chemicals in the Marketplace:

Effectively implement the Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, to ensure new and existing chemicals and pesticides are reviewed for their potential risks to human health and the environment.

Introduction

Chemicals and pesticides released into the environment as a result of their manufacture, processing, use, or disposal can threaten human health and the environment. EPA gathers and assesses information about the risks associated with chemicals and pesticides and implements risk management strategies when needed. EPA's research efforts will help advance the Agency's ability to assess chemicals more rapidly and accurately.

In 2016, TSCA was amended by the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. The amendments give EPA significant new as well as continuing responsibilities for reviewing chemicals in or entering commerce to prevent unreasonable risks to human health and the environment, including unreasonable risks to potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulations. Proper implementation, as Congress intended, of the TSCA amendments is one of EPA's top priorities.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) is the primary federal law governing oversight of pesticide manufacture, distribution, and use in the United States. FIFRA requires EPA to register pesticides based on a finding that they will not cause unreasonable adverse effects on people and the environment, taking into account the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of the use of the pesticide. Each time the law has been amended, Congress has strengthened FIFRA's safety standards while continuing to require consideration of pesticide benefits.

In addition to FIFRA, the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) governs the maximum allowable level of pesticides in and on food grown and sold in the United States. The legal level of a pesticide residue on a food or food item is referred to as a tolerance. FFDCA requires that the establishment, modification, or revocation of tolerances be based on a finding of a "reasonable certainty of no harm." When evaluating the establishment, modification, or revocation of a tolerance, EPA tries to harmonize the tolerance with the maximum residue levels (MRLs) set by other countries to enhance the trade of agricultural commodities.

Strategic Measures

- Complete EPA-initiated TSCA risk evaluations for existing chemicals in accordance with the timelines set forth in the statute.
- Complete TSCA risk management actions for existing chemicals in accordance with the timelines set forth in the statute.
- Complete TSCA pre-manufacture notice final determinations in accordance with the timelines set forth in the statute.
- Complete all cases of FIFRA-mandated decisions for pesticides registration review program.

- Improve the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) registration decision time frames for new pesticides.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Chemicals

Over the next four years, EPA will focus on meeting the statutory requirements and mandatory deadlines of the amended TSCA and ensuring that the reviews are efficient, effective, and transparent to EPA's stakeholders.

Under the chemical data reporting (CDR) rule, EPA collects basic exposure-related information from manufacturers (including importers) on the types, quantities, and uses of chemical substances produced domestically or imported into the United States. When TSCA was enacted in 1976, there were approximately 60,000 existing chemicals. The amended TSCA provides a framework for making progress in understanding and managing the risks associated with priority existing chemicals to prevent unreasonable risk posed by their use. The Act requires EPA to identify high- and low-priority existing chemicals and evaluate high-priority chemicals against a new risk-based safety standard. By December 2019, EPA must complete risk evaluations for the first ten high-priority chemicals, ramp up the risk evaluation process so that 20 high-priority chemicals are under evaluation at all times, and identify 20 low-priority chemicals which will not undergo further evaluation.¹¹ Chemical risk evaluations of existing chemicals must be completed within three years.¹² Stakeholder engagement is a vital part of the process—it helps inform EPA's prioritization of chemicals for assessment and determinations of chemical safety as a result of the assessments.

The Agency has two years to address unreasonable risks identified as warranted for action by the findings of the chemical risk evaluations.¹³ Risk management actions may include prohibiting, restricting, or modifying the manufacture, processing, distribution in commerce or commercial use, modifying the labeling, recordkeeping, and other restrictions.

For new chemicals, EPA assesses the potential risks for approximately 1,000 new chemicals or new chemical uses submitted by industry each year, and establishes risk reduction/management techniques prior to their entry into the marketplace as necessary.¹⁴ The amended TSCA has new requirements for positive determinations of chemical safety, which resulted in changes to EPA's assessment process for new chemicals. EPA reviews and takes action on new chemical notices submitted by industry, including pre-manufacture notices (PMNs), to ensure that the chemicals are not likely to pose unreasonable risk upon their entry into U.S. commerce. EPA has 90 days to make an affirmative determination of safety based on whether the chemical substance will present, may present, or is not likely to present an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment, or that the available information is insufficient to enable the Agency to make any of the above determinations. Under the TSCA amendments, if EPA makes an "insufficient information" determination, the Agency will work with the submitter to conduct testing needed to make a determination or will impose restrictions on the substance that prevent exposure from occurring.

¹¹ To initiate new risk evaluations promptly, EPA will begin the chemical substance prioritization process 9-12 months prior to designating which chemical evaluations it will start.

¹² TSCA section 6(b)(4)(G) requires risk evaluations be completed within 3 years of initiation but allows for an extension to this deadline "for not more than 6 months."

¹³ TSCA section 6(c)(1) requires final regulatory action within 2 years of publication of the final risk evaluation but allows for an extension to this deadline "for not more than 2 years."

¹⁴ Including nanoscale materials and products of biotechnology

EPA will protect legitimate claims of confidentiality of the identity of chemicals. The Agency will increase transparency of chemical data by reviewing within 90 days all chemical identity confidential business information (CBI) claims for certain types of submissions and for 25 percent of most other CBI claims. As of July 17, 2017, EPA has received more than 12,000 CBI claims, of which 4,096 were determined to need review under TSCA's new requirements.

The Agency uses a variety of tools and approaches to assess, prevent, and reduce chemical releases and exposures, and empowers stakeholders by ensuring access to chemical data and other information and expertise. EPA annually publishes the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), a public database that contains release and other waste management information (e.g., recycling) and pollution prevention data on over 650 toxic chemicals from approximately 20,000 industrial and federal facilities.

Pesticides

EPA is responsible for licensing (registering) and periodically reevaluating (registration review) pesticides to protect consumers, pesticide users, workers who may be exposed to pesticides, children, and other sensitive populations, while considering the benefits associated with the use of the pesticide. EPA seeks public input on all pesticide reevaluations; all new active ingredients; first food uses; and the establishment, modification, or revocation of tolerances. For example, the rules governing the registration review program (40 CFR 155) typically provide for three distinct comment periods at various stages of the review process. In making pesticide decisions, the Agency often seeks input from stakeholders to address specific information, such as real-world use patterns and benefits to the user community.

EPA works with other federal, state, and tribal agencies, trade organizations, industry, and non-governmental organizations to ensure the effective and safe use of pesticides. EPA also has long provided financial support and expertise to tribes and states so that they can provide training, education, and outreach to pesticide applicators about the safe, proper, and legal use of pesticides. States and tribes work with farmers, businesses, and public agencies to protect human health and the environment and serve as a critical part of job training and business growth in rural areas.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

The amended TSCA provides EPA the authority to collect user fees to defray up to 25 percent of the Agency's costs to administer TSCA Sections 4, 5, 6, and 14. While EPA has the authority to set and collect the fees, it has no control over how much revenue the fees will generate. That will be determined in large part by how the fee-paying community responds to the new fees in terms of their number of fee-related submissions or requests.

New pests and disease vectors carried by pests create challenges for managing pesticides. EPA works closely with public health officials, researchers, and agricultural experts to identify emerging pests, and with industry to expeditiously register pesticides that address issues while ensuring pesticide safety. Assessing and appropriately addressing risks is complex. The Agency must determine safe, effective methods of pesticide use, weighing differing risks for humans and ecosystems. For example, one pesticide may have lower risks for humans than do other pesticides, but have increased risks for pollinators or endangered species. Similarly, a pesticide may have risks for humans, but may be appropriate to fight mosquitos that carry diseases that also pose risks to humans.

EPA continues its trust responsibility by conducting education and outreach with tribes. One challenge is ensuring that the flow of information on the safe use of pesticides reaches more than 500 federally-recognized tribes across the country, and comes in forms that result in protective actions on the ground.

Goal 2 – Cooperative Federalism:

Rebalance the power between Washington and the states to create tangible environmental results for the American people.

The idea that environmental protection is a shared responsibility between the states, tribes, and federal government is embedded in our environmental laws, which in many cases provide states and tribes the opportunity and responsibility for implementing environmental protection programs. More than 45 years after the creation of EPA and the enactment of a broad set of federal environmental protection laws, most states, and to a lesser extent territories and tribes, are authorized to implement environmental programs within their jurisdictions in lieu of EPA-administered federal programs. Specifically, states have assumed more than 96 percent of the delegable authorities under federal law.¹⁵ There are, however, some programs that by statute may not be delegated to the states. Further, as a part of its trust responsibilities, EPA maintains responsibility for implementing environmental programs in much of Indian country. Recognizing these evolving responsibilities, EPA will adapt its practices to reduce duplication of effort with authorized states and tailor its oversight of delegated programs.

Cooperative federalism—the relationship between states and EPA—is not just about who makes decisions, but about how decisions are made and a sense of shared accountability to provide positive environmental results. EPA understands that improvements to protecting human health and the environment cannot be achieved by any actor operating alone, but only when the states and EPA, in conjunction with affected communities, work together in a spirit of trust, collaboration, and partnership. Effective environmental protection is best achieved when EPA and its state partners work from a foundation of transparency, collaboration—including public participation—and a spirit of shared accountability for the outcomes of this joint work. This foundation involves active platforms for public participation, including building the capacity of the most vulnerable community stakeholders to provide input. With these public participation opportunities, the beneficiaries of environmental protection, the American people, will be able to more meaningfully engage through their communities, their local governments, and their state governments. Including the public’s voice, particularly the voices of the most vulnerable to environmental and public health challenges among us, in EPA’s policy, regulatory, and assistance work is essential to meeting their needs as the Agency implements its statutory responsibilities.

EPA also recognizes that meeting the needs of states, local governments, and communities, and achieving environmental improvements cannot be done in isolation from economic growth. Opportunities for prosperous economic growth and clean air, water, and land are lost without effective infrastructure investments that align with community needs, especially infrastructure investments that repair existing systems, support revitalization of existing communities and buildings, take advantage of existing roads, and lead to the cleanup and redevelopment of previously-used sites and buildings. Currently, there is a gap between infrastructure funding demands and available resources. EPA will play a role in closing this gap by optimizing and aligning its relevant programs to catalyze other resources to close this gap, support beneficial infrastructure investments, and meet community needs for thriving economies and improved environmental and human health outcomes.

¹⁵ Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Paper, “Cooperative Federalism 2.0,” June 2017

Objective 2.1 - Enhance Shared Accountability:

Improve environmental protection through joint governance and compliance assistance among state, tribal, local, and federal partners.

Introduction

In the spirit of cooperative federalism, EPA and its partners have made enormous progress in protecting air, water, and land resources. EPA recognizes that states vary in the environmental challenges that they face due to variations in geography, population density, and other factors. The unique relationship among EPA and its co-regulators is the foundation of the nation's environmental protection system—each organization fulfills a critical role based on its expertise, abilities, and responsibilities in protecting and improving human health and the environment.

EPA recognizes the advances states and tribes have made in implementing environmental laws and programs. This Administration will undertake a series of initiatives to rethink and assess where we are and where we want to be with respect to joint governance. These initiatives will clarify the Agency's statutory roles and responsibilities and tailor state oversight to maximize our return on investment and reduce burden on states, while assuring continued progress in meeting environmental program requirements as established by Congress.

In addition, EPA—with its state, tribal, and local partners—ensures consistent and fair enforcement of federal environmental laws and regulations. The Agency uses a full set of compliance assurance tools, such as compliance assistance and monitoring, electronic reporting, traditional enforcement, grants to states and tribes, and tribal capacity building, to work jointly with its co-regulators to protect human health and the environment. EPA will build on progress achieved to date with E-Enterprise for the Environment, which uses a cooperative federalism model under which states, tribes, territories, and EPA collaborate to develop and improve compliance assurance tools.

EPA directly implements the majority of federal environmental programs in Indian country. The Agency actively works with tribes to develop their capacity to administer environmental programs and to enable tribes that choose to implement federal environmental laws and programs for their lands.

Strategic Measures

- Increase the number of grant commitments achieved by states, tribes, and local communities.
- Increase the use of alternate joint governance approaches to address state, tribal, and local community reviews.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Joint Governance

To develop a future model of joint governance that takes into account the progress states have made in protecting human health and the environment, the Agency will undertake an analysis of EPA's statutory roles and responsibilities to determine what we have to do and assess what we want to do in light of priorities. As part of this process, the Agency will pilot new approaches to tailoring state transactional oversight (e.g., permits) where we have the legal flexibility to do so and streamlining those processes by which EPA reviews and approves state actions.

The National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS) has long served as a model for advancing cooperative federalism by providing the flexibility needed to address the unique needs of individual states and tribes to achieve the best environmental results. A performance-based approach for organizing working relationships with states and many tribes, NEPPS provides specific benefits, such as greater flexibility to assess environmental conditions, set joint priorities, and strategically leverage resources, thus improving cooperative federalism, joint governance, and shared accountability. EPA will work with states and tribes to strengthen cooperative federalism principles through NEPPS.

As a starting point the EPA is initiating a review of the use of Performance Partnership Grants (PPGs), an important tool in NEPPS. PPGs are a financial tool that allows states and tribes to combine separate “streams” of categorical grant funding, from across 20 eligible categorical grants, into one multi-program grant with a single budget. The goal of the review is to understand PPG utilization and outline a course of action addressing the challenges, leveraging lessons learned and progress achieved over the last 22 years. The intent is to provide states the flexibility to maximize human health and environmental protection achieved by the funds; further enhance the federal, state, and/or tribal partnership; and promote the goals of NEPPS.

EPA will respect the important role governors play in cooperative federalism and will seek their views and perspectives on compliance assistance and other opportunities to improve the EPA-state partnership. In addition, the Agency will work to strengthen intergovernmental consultation methods to engage stakeholders and hear diverse views on the impacts of prospective regulations.

Local governments also have a unique relationship with EPA as partners and often as innovative problem solvers. EPA works with local governments to build stronger and more robust partnerships and bring local concerns forward into Agency decision making. As part of these efforts, EPA seeks advice from the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), a chartered policy committee comprising elected and appointed local officials, on the impacts of the Agency’s regulations and policies on local governments.

Consistent with the 2011 EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian tribes, EPA will build tribal capacity to implement federal programs—through delegations, authorizations, and primacy designations—and enable tribes to meaningfully participate in the Agency’s policy making, standard setting, and direct implementation activities under federal environmental statutes. EPA will work with individual tribes on a government-to-government basis to develop and implement an EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP), a joint planning document for achieving stronger environmental and human health protection in Indian country. ETEPs identify tribal, EPA, and shared priorities, and the roles and responsibilities for addressing those priorities.

EPA will focus its direct implementation efforts on areas of high need for human health or environmental protection, including programs identified in the ETEP for which the tribe does not currently anticipate seeking delegation, authorization, or primacy. In carrying out its direct implementation activities, EPA will work closely with the tribe to bolster tribal capacity for subsequent tribal program implementation. EPA will encourage tribes to participate in policy making and to assume appropriate partial roles in the implementation of programs as opportunities are available.

Compliance Assurance

Over the next four years, the Agency will enhance the compliance assurance tool box in collaboration with its state, tribal, local, federal, and industry partners. For example, the E-Enterprise Web Portal will allow the states, tribes, regulated community, and EPA to transact business, such as permitting and reporting, and provide easy access to needed compliance assistance information. EPA will expand its compliance assistance work by continuing to partner with third-party organizations and federal agencies to support the 17 existing web-based, sector-specific compliance assistance centers and developing new centers. In general, an expanded and modernized compliance assurance tool box will enhance our ability to tailor compliance assurance approaches to the differing needs and challenges among states and regulated entities.

A key component of EPA's overall compliance assurance program is compliance monitoring. Compliance monitoring allows the regulatory agency to detect noncompliance and promote compliance with the nation's environmental laws. EPA, state, and tribal inspectors often provide regulated entities with compliance assistance during the inspection process. On a national level, EPA works closely with individual states, tribes, and state and tribal associations to develop, modernize, and implement national compliance monitoring strategies to ensure a level playing field for regulated entities across the country. The Agency principally focuses compliance monitoring activities, such as field inspections, electronic reporting, and data analysis tools, on those programs that are not delegated to states and tribes, and provides monitoring, program evaluations, and capacity building to support and complement authorized state, tribal, and local government programs. The Agency will work with its state and tribal partners to enhance compliance monitoring tools and increase the use of Lean practices. Through E-Enterprise for the Environment, EPA, states, tribes, and territories will collaborate to develop smart mobile tools to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of state, tribal, and EPA inspectors, and support advanced monitoring technology.

International Partnerships

To achieve the Agency's domestic environmental and human health objectives, the EPA will work with international partners to address international sources of pollution, as well as the impacts of pollution from the United States on other countries and the global environment. Pollution impacts air, water, food crops, and food chains, and can accumulate in foods such as fish. EPA efforts will include working with international partners to strengthen environmental laws and governance to more closely align with U.S. standards and practices and to help level the playing field for U.S. industry.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

Advances in the field of information technology and social science research may offer innovative ways to promote compliance. EPA is partnering with states to help prepare for and use these technologies and research to carry out our statutory obligations. EPA also will work closely with the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), state program associations, and individual states, tribes, and territories to implement the Administrator's vision for cooperative federalism. In partnership with ECOS, EPA plans to develop principles and best practices for enhancing collaboration among EPA and states on compliance assurance work.

Objective 2.2 - Increase Transparency and Public Participation:

Listen to and collaborate with impacted stakeholders and provide effective platforms for public participation and meaningful engagement.

Introduction

EPA will strengthen its community-driven approach, which emphasizes public participation to better partner with states, tribes, and communities and to maximize the support and resources of the entire Agency to create tangible environmental results. The Agency will deploy its collective resources and expertise to collaborate with states and communities and support locally-led, community-driven solutions to improved environmental protection and economic growth. Increased transparency, the facilitation of public participation, and an emphasis on cooperation and collaboration will provide a more comprehensive understanding of community needs.

The Agency also will coordinate better across its programs and with federal partners to ensure mutual efforts are aligned, including consideration of vulnerable groups and communities in decisions, and will reflect community needs in its actions and investments, recognizing that the needs of rural communities may not be the same as urban areas. Increasing transparency and public participation in EPA's work with other agencies will enhance the Agency's ability to partner with states, tribes, and local governments and increase responsiveness to the needs of their most vulnerable communities. EPA will serve as a convener and leverage resources with new and existing partners to deliver services more efficiently and effectively. The Agency also will engage regulated entities to identify reforms to more efficiently and effectively meet the nation's environmental goals.

Strategic Measures

- Increase the amount of non-EPA resources leveraged by projects receiving EPA infrastructure investments.
- Reduce the backlog and meet statutory deadlines for responding to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and appeals.
- Eliminate unnecessary or duplicative reporting burdens to the regulated community.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Over the next four years, EPA will meet community needs through public participation, building community capacity through grants, technical assistance, partnering, and meaningful engagement. The Agency will leverage recommendations provided by federal advisory committees, such as the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), LGAC, and Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC), and focus on partnerships representing vulnerable populations, such as youth, the elderly, and school groups. Specifically, the Agency will engage with the focus communities identified by EPA regions to understand each community's goals and identify its environmental priorities and needs, recognizing that rural communities and more urban areas may have different priorities.

Given that investment in infrastructure is necessary for economic growth and environmental protection and that EPA investments are catalytic to both, EPA's efforts will be used to support private and public investment in economic revitalization and improved environmental outcomes across the country. This requires that EPA reimagine its infrastructure and community assistance programs (e.g., the clean water

SRF, drinking water SRF, Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, environmental justice, community revitalization, and brownfields area-wide planning grant programs) to better align EPA investments with each other and with other federal investments in pursuit of economic revitalization and improved environmental outcomes. At the same time, EPA will ensure that it is serving disadvantaged communities, leveraging private investment to improve the economy, and protecting human health and the environment.

EPA will work in a focused manner to make infrastructure and public health protection investments in communities, and with or through partners, such as states and tribes. To further integrate and implement community environmental considerations within EPA programs, the Agency will create tools to facilitate incorporation of community understanding, needs, and concerns across program activities and advance more systematic incorporation of existing tools and needs, such as use of the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJSCREEN) and EnviroAtlas. EPA will develop a cross-Agency communities team to lead regional involvement in and resourcing of community-based environmental work through a fully-integrated resource platform.

The Agency will work to coordinate across the federal government, with EPA regions partnering with federal agencies in focus communities to deliver services more efficiently and effectively. Such partnerships will leverage resources and expertise from across EPA and a range of outside partners to advance economic revitalization through the environmental and health goals of communities. The Agency will also continue leadership of and involvement in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Community Solutions Taskforce to better access and leverage resources from across federal agencies, and will strengthen coordination with the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice to better integrate EPA priorities and support and engage communities. In addition, EPA will support and align its work with the activities and priorities of the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children.

EPA will work on the E-Enterprise Web Portal's Assistance Gateway, which provides tools and resources for communities to facilitate two-way communication between the public and environmental agencies. The Agency will determine how EPA, states, and tribes can most effectively harness and benefit from the recent, rapid development of environmental monitoring technologies that are smaller, more portable, and less expensive than traditional methods. EPA will support the E-Enterprise joint governance structure to enhance collaboration and communication with communities. The Agency will seek to increase the number and type of public participation platforms it has to ensure that the public can meaningfully participate in all of EPA's work—including policy making, regulatory development, outreach, education, and community engagement.

EPA will also focus on reducing the FOIA backlog the Agency has built up over the years, and enhance the FOIA process. The complexity and volume of electronic documents required to be searched, collected, and reviewed has increased over time. The Agency will ensure that it can support the timely searching and collection of electronically-stored information for purposes of responding to FOIA requests and other information needs in a cost-effective, sustainable manner. This should not only help the Agency provide the public information requested, but also reduce the fees and lawsuits the Agency incurs from missing FOIA response deadlines.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

Resources are critical to the expansion of technical assistance directed at communities and state, tribal, and local government partners that support community-focused engagement and collaboration. Staff must be available for a wide variety of implementation activities—e.g., direct community engagement and support, intra- and inter-agency coordination, and partnering effectively with states and tribes.

In addition, the challenges of coordinating across offices within EPA and with other federal agencies can inhibit the identification and delivery of creative solutions and services that can lead to tangible results for communities and a more effective leveraging of government resources. EPA recognizes the need to communicate successes and achievements related to this work, both to market its effectiveness and to teach new partners and practitioners how to replicate successful models and approaches.

Goal 3: Rule of Law and Process

Administer the law, as Congress intended, to refocus the Agency on its statutory obligations under the law.

EPA will seek to reinvigorate the rule of law and process as it administers the environmental laws as Congress intended, and to refocus the agency on its basic statutory obligations. To accomplish this, EPA will work cooperatively with states and tribes to ensure compliance with the law, as well as to create consistency and certainty for the regulated community.

Compliance with the law is not just about enforcement—it is about ensuring consistency and certainty for the regulated community so it has a complete understanding of the impact of proposed actions on human health, the environment, and the economy, and a clear path and timeline to achieve that compliance. Policies and rules will reflect common sense, consistent with EPA's statutory authorities, and the public will benefit from greater regulatory and economic certainty. EPA will enforce the rule of law in a timely manner and take action against those that violate environmental laws to the detriment of human health or the environment.

One of EPA's highest priorities must be to create consistency and certainty for the regulated community. Consistency in how the laws and regulations are applied across the country is part of that process, and EPA will undertake a variety of efforts to ensure that consistency in application is evaluated and addressed. It is as important to apply rules and policies consistently as it is to create certainty by meeting the statutory deadlines that are required for EPA's actions. The rule of law must also be built on the application of robust science that is conducted to help the Agency meet its mission and support the states in achieving their environmental goals. Research, in conjunction with user friendly applications needed to apply the science to real-world problems, will help move EPA and the states forward in making timely decisions based on sound science.

Carrying out this goal requires that EPA improve the efficiency of its internal business and administrative operations. First, EPA's business operations, specifically the vast permitting processes established by the different environmental statutes, are key to ensuring economic growth and human health and environmental protection. Over the next four years, EPA will modernize its permitting practices to increase the timeliness of reviews and decisions, while working more collaboratively, transparently, and cost effectively to achieve the Agency's mission. The second part of improving internal operations includes reducing EPA's overhead and creating more efficient and effective administrative processes (e.g., acquisition) that allow EPA to accomplish its core mission work.

Objective 3.1 - Compliance with the Law:

Enforce environmental laws to correct noncompliance and promote cleanup of contaminated sites.

Introduction

For decades, the protections mandated by federal environmental laws have been essential to the growth of American prosperity. Noncompliance with those laws diminishes shared prosperity and unfairly tilts the field of economic competition in favor of those that skirt the law. To carry out its mission to protect human health and the environment, EPA, in collaboration with state and tribal partners, relies on a strong national compliance assurance and cleanup enforcement program.

EPA's enforcement priorities remain focused on cleaning up hazardous waste sites and addressing the most significant violations consistent with EPA's statutory authorities. The overwhelming majority of EPA's enforcement actions are taken in programs that are: (1) not delegable to the state or a federally-recognized tribe; (2) in states or tribes that have not sought authorization to implement a delegable program; or (3) in states or tribes that do not have the resources or expertise, or that seek assistance from the Agency—and all of these actions are taken in coordination with the states or tribes. In states with authorized programs, EPA and states share enforcement responsibility, with primary enforcement responsibility residing with the state.¹⁶ EPA is responsible for addressing violations that occur in Indian country in the absence of an approved program.

Even in states or tribes authorized to implement a program, EPA serves a critical role in addressing serious national noncompliance problems, such as those affecting multiple states. EPA also may assist a state or tribe in remediating noncompliance problems when it is unable to address the problem because it lacks the capability or resources, such as in actions against federal or state agencies. And for some serious violations, the Agency and states or tribes may decide that the best approach is a joint enforcement action. Further, EPA will take immediate action when there is an environmental emergency, such as an oil spill or chemical accident. Through the State Review Framework (SRF), EPA periodically reviews authorized state and tribal compliance monitoring and enforcement programs, using criteria agreed upon by states and tribes, to evaluate performance against national compliance monitoring or enforcement program standards. When states or tribes do not achieve standards, the Agency works with them to make progress. However, EPA may also take a lead implementation role when authorized states or tribes have a documented history of failure to make progress toward meeting national standards.

In all of its work, EPA's enforcement program strives to address noncompliance in an efficient and timely manner, applying a broad range of enforcement and compliance tools to achieve the goal of reducing noncompliance.

Strategic Measures

- Reduce the time between the identification of an environmental law violation and its correction.
- Increase environmental law compliance rate.

¹⁶ See e.g., ECOS Resolution 98-9, U.S. EPA Enforcement in Delegated States (revised September 28, 2016), describing the EPA and state roles in enforcement in authorized states: "WHEREAS, U.S. EPA and the States have bilaterally developed policy agreements which reflect those roles and which recognize the primary responsibility for enforcement action resides with the States, with U.S. EPA taking enforcement action principally where the State requests assistance, is unwilling or unable to take timely and appropriate enforcement actions, or in actions of national interest, or in actions involving multiple state jurisdictions."

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Civil Enforcement

The overall goal of EPA's civil enforcement program is to maximize compliance with the nation's environmental laws and regulations to protect human health and the environment. The Agency works closely with the U.S. Department of Justice, states, tribes, territories, and local agencies to ensure consistent and fair enforcement of all 12 major environmental statutes. EPA will seek to strengthen environmental partnerships with its state and tribal partners, encourage regulated entities to correct violations rapidly, ensure that violators do not realize an economic benefit from noncompliance, and pursue enforcement to deter future violations.

EPA recognizes that significant environmental progress has been made over the years, much of it due to enforcement efforts by EPA, states, tribes, and local communities. To maximize compliance over the next four years, the Agency will refocus efforts toward areas with significant noncompliance issues and where enforcement can address the most substantial impacts to human health and the environment. Recognizing the role of states and tribes as the primary implementers where authorized by EPA to implement the federal statutes, EPA will focus resources on direct implementation responsibilities and the most significant violations, and assisting authorized states and tribes in meeting national standards. EPA is responsible for direct implementation for programs that are not delegable or where a state or tribe has not sought or obtained the authority to implement a particular program (or program component). Examples include the Clean Air Act mobile source program, pesticide labeling and registration under FIFRA, enforcement in Indian country, enforcement of the federal Superfund cleanup program, and enforcement of non-delegated portions of various other laws, including RCRA, the CWA, and stratospheric ozone under the CAA. EPA also will pursue enforcement actions at federal facilities where significant violations are discovered and ensure that federal facilities are held to the same standards as the private sector and will provide technical and scientific support to states and tribes with authorized programs.

Criminal Enforcement

Over the next four years, EPA will collaborate and coordinate with the U.S. Department of Justice, and state, tribal, and local law enforcement counterparts to ensure that the Agency responds to violations as quickly and effectively as possible. EPA enforces the nation's environmental laws through targeted investigation of criminal conduct committed by individual and corporate defendants that threatens human health and the environment. The Agency plays a critical role across the country since states and tribes have limited capacity to prosecute environmental crimes. The Agency will focus resources on the most egregious environmental cases (i.e., those presenting significant human health and environmental impacts).

Cleanup Enforcement

Through the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund), EPA will facilitate prompt site cleanup and use an "enforcement first" approach that maximizes the participation of liable and viable parties in performing and paying for cleanups. The Agency will protect communities by ensuring that potentially responsible parties (PRPs) conduct cleanups at Superfund sites, preserving federal taxpayer dollars for sites where there are no viable contributing parties, and by recovering costs if the EPA expends Superfund-appropriated dollars to clean up sites. EPA also will address liability concerns that can be a barrier to potential reuse. Addressing the

risks posed by Superfund sites and returning them to productive use strengthens the economy and spurs economic growth.

Over the next four years, EPA will focus its resources on the highest priority sites, particularly those that may present an immediate risk to human health or the environment. In accordance with the Superfund Task Force Report, the Agency will improve and revitalize the Superfund program to ensure that contaminated sites across the country are remediated to protect human health and the environment and returned to beneficial reuse as expeditiously as possible. At federally-owned sites, EPA will also focus on resolving formal disputes under the federal facility agreements.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

Advanced monitoring technology and information technology are rapidly evolving, and advances in these fields offer great opportunities for improving the ability of EPA, states, and tribes to ensure compliance. EPA, states, and tribes do, however, face challenges in keeping up with the rapid pace of change in these technologies. In addition, social science research and knowledge may offer innovative ways to promote compliance. EPA is partnering with states and tribes to help prepare for and use these technologies, consistent with statutory and regulatory obligations. The Agency will collaborate with ECOS and state associations to maximize the use of these technologies and modernize programs. For example, EPA will work with states and academics to pilot and evaluate innovative compliance methods.¹⁷ EPA will work with states to integrate advanced pollution monitoring and information technology into Agency work.

¹⁷ ECOS Resolution 17-2: On the Value of Diverse and Innovative Approaches to Advance Compliance (2017)

Objective 3.2 - Create Consistency and Certainty:

Outline exactly what is expected of the regulated community to ensure good stewardship and positive environmental outcomes.

Introduction

The regulatory framework is inherently dynamic. As part of its statutory obligations, EPA is required to publish many regulations within a set timeframe each year that implement environmental programs as well as assist the Agency's operations. These regulations address newly mandated responsibilities as well as updates and revisions to existing regulations. As EPA meets its obligations to protect human health and the environment through regulatory action, it must also meet another key responsibility—minimizing “regulatory uncertainty” that unnecessarily causes businesses and communities to face delays, planning inefficiencies, and compliance complexities that impede environmental protection, economic growth, and development. EPA will employ a set of strategies to reduce regulatory uncertainty while continuing to improve human health and environmental outcomes consistent with the Agency's authorities as established by Congress. These strategies, which reflect EPA's commitment to cooperative federalism and commitment to the rule of law, will also help advance Agency goals for streamlining and modernizing permitting and enhancing shared accountability.

Strategic Measure

- Meet legal deadlines imposed on EPA.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

As EPA issues new or revised regulations, businesses and individuals can find it challenging to know which rules apply to them and to adjust their compliance strategies. Over the next four years, EPA will reinvigorate its approach to regulatory development and prioritize meeting its statutory deadlines to ensure that expectations for the regulated community and the public are clear and comprehensive and that Agency actions are defensible and consistent with its authorities. The Agency will use new approaches and flexible tools to minimize regulatory uncertainty and will communicate more comprehensively to realize more consistent and better environmental outcomes, while centering work on statutory and regulatory obligations. EPA will strengthen working relationships with industry sectors to understand better their needs and challenges in implementing EPA requirements and with communities to understand their concerns. This knowledge will enable the Agency to develop better policies and regulations to protect human health and the environment in line with the authorities given to EPA by Congress.

On average, the EPA faces approximately twenty legal challenges under the various environmental statutes each year that assert that the agency has missed a statutory or regulatory deadline for taking an action or has unreasonably delayed taking an action. In addition, the Agency faces nearly the same number of legal challenges under the Freedom of Information Act for failure to comply with the deadlines in that law. Responding to these challenges often diverts significant EPA resources away from priority activities, and could impact the Agency's ability to fulfill its commitments. In order to facilitate achievement of this goal, EPA will undertake a systematic mapping of the processes associated with these obligations and implement improvements where needed.

In addition, EPA will develop and engage stakeholders in reviewing a draft base catalog of responsibilities that statutes require EPA to perform in programs delegated to states and tribes. The base catalog, to be complete by 2019 and subsequently updated as necessary, will provide EPA a foundation to

make decisions that reduce contradictory policy determinations at headquarters and across regions. It will also support EPA cooperative federalism commitments aimed at minimizing duplication and overlap among regions, headquarters, states, and tribes. This effort also leverages another commitment that EPA is making under cooperative federalism—to identify for all environmental media an inventory and timeline for state-led permits that EPA reviews.

The Agency will establish a national network to ensure consistent implementation of policy across all regions. EPA will review regulatory guidance documents to identify key opportunities and will clarify and realign Agency approaches to improve consistency and clarity. EPA will strengthen working relationships with states, tribes, and local communities to transfer knowledge, leveraging its commitments under cooperative federalism, such as the collaboration under E-Enterprise for the Environment. EPA will make available to states and tribes tools or services designed by other federal agencies, states, tribes, or local communities that enhance efficiency, reduce burden on the regulated community, and improve environmental outcomes.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

A number of factors and emerging issues may impede the Agency's ability to meet this strategic objective. Sustainable resource levels and a strong workforce are critical to success. Proposing and finalizing regulations is often a multi-year process, which can be challenged by lawsuits. EPA also recognizes the need to communicate successes and achievements, both to market effectiveness and to teach others how to replicate successful models and approaches.

Objective 3.3 - Prioritize Robust Science:

Refocus the EPA's robust research and scientific analysis to inform policy making.

Introduction

EPA will identify, assess, conduct, and apply the best available science to address current and future environmental hazards, develop new approaches, and improve the scientific foundation for environmental protection decisions. EPA conducts problem-driven, interdisciplinary research to address specific environmental risks, and is committed to using science and innovation to reduce risks to human health and the environment, based on needs identified by EPA's program offices and state and tribal partners. Specifically, over the next four years, the Agency will strengthen alignment of its research to support EPA programs, regions, states, and tribes in accomplishing their top human health and environmental protection priorities for improved air quality, clean and safe water, revitalized land, and chemical safety. The Agency will also emphasize the translation of its work products for end user application and feedback.

EPA research will be reviewed by various scientific advisory boards (e.g., Board of Scientific Counselors) that are made up of recognized experts in various scientific, engineering, and social science fields and may be from industry, business, public and private research institutes or organizations, academia, government (federal, state, local, and tribal) and nongovernmental organizations, and other relevant interest areas.

Strategic Measure

- Increase the percentage of decisions using EPA research and scientific analysis.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Air Quality

EPA's research will advance the science and provide the information critical to improving air quality and informing stationary source regulations, vehicle and fuel standards and certification, emission inventories, air quality assessments, and domestic ozone actions. The results of Agency research to support air quality program priorities will inform EPA programs; state, local, and tribal air programs; as well as communities and individuals about measures and strategies to reduce air pollution. Researchers will publish peer-reviewed scientific journal articles to disseminate research findings as appropriate and consistent with resource and program needs.

Over the next four years, the Agency will:

- Deliver state-of-the-art tools for states to use in identifying effective emission reduction strategies to meet national ambient air quality standards and enhance air quality measurement methods used to ascertain compliance with NAAQS.
- Assess human and ecosystem exposures and effects associated with air pollutants on individual, community, regional, and global scales.
- Develop and evaluate approaches to prevent and reduce pollution, particularly sustainable, cost-effective, and innovative multi-pollutant and sector-based approaches.
- Provide human exposure and environmental modeling, monitoring, metrics, and information needed to inform air quality decision making at the state and local level.

Safe and Sustainable Water Resources

EPA will develop innovative, cost-effective solutions to current, emerging, and long-term water resource challenges for complex chemical and biological contaminants. Using a systems approach to develop scientific and technological solutions for protecting human health and aquatic ecosystems, EPA researchers partner with program experts, federal and state agencies, tribes, local communities, academia, nongovernmental organizations, and private stakeholders.

Over the next four years, the Agency will:

- Support safe drinking water by focusing research on assessing the distribution, composition, and health impacts of known and emerging chemical and biological contaminants.
- Improve methods for fast and efficient waterborne pathogen monitoring in recreational waters.
- Investigate health impacts from exposure to harmful algal/cyanobacteria toxins, and develop innovative methods to monitor, characterize, and predict blooms for early action.
- Support states in meeting their priorities and setting water quality and aquatic life thresholds.
- Assist states, communities, and utilities in addressing stormwater and wastewater infrastructure needs through applied modeling, technical assistance, and capture-and-reuse risk assessments.
- Provide water reuse research support on potable and non-potable use guidance for states.

Sustainable and Healthy Communities

EPA will conduct research to support regulatory activities and protocol development for the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan and provide on-demand technical support at federal-, tribal-, or state-managed cleanup sites, as well as assistance during emergencies. The Agency conducts health, environmental engineering, and ecological research and prepares planning and analysis tools for localities nationwide to use in facilitating regulatory compliance and improving environmental and health outcomes.

Over the next four years, EPA will:

- Provide technical support to the states through technical support centers for remediating CERCLA-designated contaminated sites and returning them to productive use.
- Assist regional, state, and local leaders in reducing costs and setting science-based cleanup levels in areas designated under CERCLA.
- Characterize sites and contaminants released from leaking underground storage tanks identified under the LUST Trust Fund.
- Work with the ECOS/Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS) to evaluate the causal relationships between ecosystem goods and services and human health, and to document these relationships using EnviroAtlas.
- Assess the impact of pollution (e.g., health impact assessments) on such vulnerable groups as children, tribes, environmental justice communities, and other susceptible populations.

Chemical Safety

EPA will evaluate and predict impacts from chemical use and disposal and provide states with information, tools, and methods to make better informed, more timely decisions about the thousands of chemicals in the United States. The Agency will produce innovative tools that accelerate the pace of data-

driven evaluations, enable knowledge-based decisions that protect human health, and advance the science required to anticipate and solve problems.

Over the next four years, EPA will:

- Provide tools to more efficiently and cost-effectively evaluate the biological activity and health risks of chemicals and reduce the use of toxicity tests to animals.
- Use ToxCast/Tox21 data to develop high-throughput risk assessments, particularly for chemicals for which adequate risk assessment information has been historically unavailable.
- Develop online software tools to provide information on thousands of chemicals and integrate health, environmental, and exposure data to support regulatory and prioritization decisions.
- Explore how high-throughput exposure and hazard information can be combined to predict the potential for exposure and risk to susceptible subpopulations.
- Conduct nanoparticle research by using life-cycle analyses, evaluating impacts on ecosystem health, and supporting the development of safer nanomaterials in private industry.

Human Health Risk Assessment

EPA also will focus on the science of assessments that inform Agency, state, and tribal decisions and policies. These risk assessments provide the research and technical support needed to ensure safety of chemicals in the marketplace, revitalize and return land to communities, provide clean and safe water, and work with states to improve air quality.

Over the next four years, EPA will:

- Develop a portfolio of chemical evaluation products that use the best available science for use by EPA, states, tribes, and other federal agencies.
- Provide research and scientific support for proper TSCA implementation, as Congress intended.
- Develop assessment products, peer-reviewed toxicity values, and advanced exposure assessment tools to help inform Superfund and hazardous waste cleanups as required by RCRA and CERCLA.
- Provide scientific support to the risk and technology reviews conducted under the CAA.
- Provide integrated science assessments (ISAs) to support decisions to retain or revise the national ambient air quality standards. ISAs also inform benefit-cost and other analyses conducted by state and local officials to support implementation of air quality management programs.
- Provide research and technical support to deliver safe drinking water by evaluating exposures to and health impacts of known and emerging chemical and biological contaminants.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

EPA faces a number of challenges in its commitment to conducting robust science. Aging information technology infrastructure, for example, presents a risk to information security and limits the capacity for information management. Recruiting and maintaining a strong workforce with appropriate scientific and technical skillsets are also critical to EPA's research efforts.

Objective 3.4 - Streamline and Modernize:

Issue permits more quickly and modernize our permitting and reporting systems.

Introduction

EPA implements a host of environmental statutes that affect the regulated community. Permitting requirements under these statutes can impose a variety of costs, including direct costs and opportunity costs related to uncertainty, delay, and cancellation. Delays in the approval of permits and modifications by federal or state permitting authorities can postpone or prevent manufacturers from building, expanding, or beginning operations, even if the affected operations ultimately may be deemed suitable as proposed. Delays can also impact construction of major infrastructure projects. EPA is committing to speeding up approvals of permits and modifications to create certainty for the business community, leading to increased jobs and economic prosperity, and streamlining permit renewals, which incorporate up-to-date information and requirements more quickly, improving environmental protection. Further, EPA will continue to convert permit applications and reports that rely on paper submissions to electronic processing in order to reduce burden, shorten the wait for approval, and increase the opportunity for public transparency.

Strategic Measure

- Accelerate permitting-related decisions.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

Over the next four years, EPA will systematically collect and report permitting data for each of its permitting programs. The Agency will also employ business process improvement strategies, such as Lean, to improve efficiencies in all permitting processes and meet our commitments. The Agency will also work with states and use Lean techniques to streamline the review of state-issued permits. Solutions may include conducting earlier triage and communications, conducting Agency reviews in parallel with public reviews, and/or focusing reviews where they add the most value.

EPA will also consider where policy changes can improve permitting efficiency without sacrificing environmental results. Examples include expanding the scope of minor permit modifications to reduce the number of permit reviews required, reinvigorating the use of plant-wide applicability limits (PALs) to reduce unnecessary permitting transactions, and increasing states' ability to incorporate federal regulations by reference, enabling them to adjust quickly and efficiently to new regulatory provisions.

EPA will modernize permitting and reporting processes through E-Enterprise for the Environment, a collaboration among EPA, states, tribes, and territories, building upon efforts to date:

- E-Enterprise Web Portal: A web portal that allows the states, tribes, regulated community, and EPA to transact business, such as permitting and reporting, and provides easy access to needed information.
- E-reporting: A systematic digital approach that enables states, tribes, and the regulated community to move from paper-based to electronic reporting.
- E-permitting: An online system to ensure the ability to apply for, track the status of, and receive a permit electronically.

- The Environmental Information Exchange Network: Managed under the collaborative leadership of EPA, states, territories, and tribes, a communication, data, and services platform for submitting and sharing environmental information among partners to foster informed decision making.
- SPeCS for SIPs (State Plan Electronic Collection System for State Implementation Plans): A web-based system for authorized state, local, and tribal governments to submit and manage SIPs under the Clean Air Act.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

Sustainable resource levels for states and EPA are critical to efforts to streamline and modernize permitting processes. Support from states and tribes, including state and tribal capacity for maintaining and increasing delegation, is also critical. The global shift to digital services for communication and transaction raises expectations of EPA stakeholders and provides more robust approaches and technologies for developing electronic services.

Objective 3.5 - Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness:

Provide proper leadership and internal operations management to ensure that the Agency is fulfilling its mission.

Introduction

To support its mission to protect human health and the environment, EPA will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its business processes. Focus areas will include financial, facility, human resource, contract, grant, and information technology/information management. EPA will improve its future workforce, modernize and streamline its business practices, and take advantage of new collaborative and cost-effective tools and technologies. The Agency will build a modern and secure work environment that will protect critical information and support its efforts to address the environmental problems of the 21st century. EPA will work to alleviate challenges associated with outdated or non-existent policies, tension between centralized and decentralized approaches, myriad federal acquisition and grants requirements, complex processes, and fluctuating levels of expertise across Agency programs.

Strategic Measures

- Reduce unnecessary or unused office, warehouse, and lab space.
- Reduce procurement processing time.
- Improve operational processes.
- Increase enterprise adoption of shared services.

Strategies for Achieving the Objective

EPA will modernize and improve business processes and operations to promote transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness; enhance collaborative, results-driven partnerships with internal and external business partners; recruit, develop, and maintain a highly-skilled, diverse, and engaged workforce; and improve the capabilities and cost-effectiveness of its information technology (IT) and information management (IM) systems.

EPA will apply Lean principles and will leverage input from customer-focused councils, advisory groups, surveys, workgroups, acquisition partnership initiatives, technical user groups, portfolio reviews, and federal advisory committees to identify business process streamlining opportunities. To improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of its operations, EPA will standardize and streamline internal business processes in its acquisition and grants processes and systems and use additional federal and/or internal shared services when supported by business case analysis.

EPA will ensure its workforce is positioned to accomplish the Agency's mission effectively by providing access to quality training and development opportunities that will improve staff's and managers' skills, knowledge, and performance, and prepare them to capitalize on opportunities that advance progress. EPA will improve its workforce planning and management strategies, strengthen its Senior Executive Service, and focus on developing and maintaining a highly-skilled technical workforce.

EPA also will transform and modernize its information systems, tools, and processes to improve how the Agency collaborates both internally and with external stakeholders. EPA will enhance the power of

information by delivering on-demand data to the right people at the right time. To enable the Agency, its partners, and the public effectively to acquire, generate, manage, use, and share information—a critical resource in protecting human health and the environment—EPA will improve its IT/IM capabilities and customer experiences. EPA will employ enterprise risk management and financial data analytics to support data management decision making, using the enterprise risk management framework mandated by OMB Circular A-123.

To ensure that critical environmental and human health information is adequately protected, EPA will strengthen its cybersecurity posture. The Agency will focus on implementing two key cybersecurity priorities—the mandated federal-government-wide Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) effort, and the complementary EPA-specific Cyber Risk Mitigation Projects (CRMPs). These two priorities introduce or improve upon dozens of cybersecurity capabilities, enhance the Agency’s ability to respond to threats, and improve EPA’s privacy posture via the Privacy Act of 1974. EPA will work closely with the Department of Homeland Security and other partners in implementing CDM capabilities.

To better understand complex interactions between pollutants and the environment and address the environmental problems of the 21st century effectively and efficiently, EPA and its partners analyze large volumes of data. EPA will develop a comprehensive data management strategy that addresses the collection, management, and use of data generated both internally and from external partners including states/tribes, grantees, the regulated community, and citizen science. The Agency will deploy new data analysis, data visualization, and geospatial tools in a Cloud-based framework to enable analysis and provide the basis for informed decision making.

Environmental decision making across media programs requires access to high-quality data and analytics, and EPA will build shared IT services, maximizing the benefits of our investments and ensuring consistency and scalability in tools and services. Over the next four years, EPA programs that receive submissions from outside the Agency—whether from the reporting community, states, tribes, or local governments—will rely increasingly on centrally-developed and maintained information services, decreasing the volume of code each program must develop and maintain. Shared services will reduce reporting burden for submitting entities and improve data quality for EPA. EPA programs, states, and tribes must establish a common catalog of shared services and agree to a minimum set of common standards and practices.

The Agency will enhance its extensive information resources by designing an enterprise-wide information architecture that will facilitate the electronic management of data and information, as well as multimodal access, effective searching, and ease of use. The Agency’s future information management architecture will support official recordkeeping requirements, as well as daily document management, business processes, information access, and legal needs of EPA employees and organizations, while also being flexible, scalable, and cost effective.

External Factors and Emerging Issues

EPA faces a number of factors that may impede its ability to promote effective and efficient internal operations. The Agency’s ability to attract and retain staff skilled in human resources, IT/IM, cybersecurity, and acquisition management and staff with scientific and technical expertise is a continuing challenge in improving Agency operations. A lack of category-focused skills and business acumen can negatively affect strategic sourcing decisions. Myriad federal acquisition and grant requirements, complex processes, and varying levels of expertise across Agency programs often prevent the timely awarding of contract and grant vehicles to meet Agency demands. EPA must increase its competencies in these areas through a robust training program for staff and managers.

Without standard business processes, EPA cannot achieve its objectives. For example, tension between local needs and Agency-wide strategies may result in missed opportunities to make effective strategic sourcing decisions. This not only impedes Agency efforts to modernize business processes and streamline IT infrastructure, but also affects the ability of government shared service providers to serve additional customers and use standard software to achieve efficiencies and cost savings. Furthermore, continually changing IT/IM and security requirements and variation among states and tribes require development of a holistic “Enterprise-Level Vision and Data Strategy” that optimizes both business processes and solutions; aligns all data programs, resources, and budgets; and strengthens the Agency’s enterprise risk strategies. Demands for IT/IM services will continue to grow, due to the increasing volume of environmental data and increased expectations of other agencies, regulated entities, the public, and EPA staff. As cybersecurity risks evolve, protecting EPA’s information assets will continue to be a challenge.

From: E&E News [ealerts@eenews.net]
Sent: 11/7/2017 6:32:00 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: November 7 -- Greenwire is ready


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Message

From: Jane DeMarchi [jdemarchi@betterseed.org]
Sent: 11/7/2017 2:57:15 PM
To: Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Touching Base
Attachments: ASTA EPA Priorities.docx

Yes. We would like that too. We have two looming EPA issues that we need to discuss. 1) Plant Breeding Innovation/gene editing 2) Treated Article Exemption petition for treated seed.

I would really like to have Bernice with us and our travel schedules are brutal. I'll shoot you some dates/times.

In the meantime, attached is a backgrounder we prepared for Tate in September.

Jane DeMarchi
VP, Government and Regulatory Affairs
American Seed Trade Association
703-837-8140x[Ex. 6](office)
[Ex. 6](cell)

From: Sands, Jeffrey [mailto:sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2017 9:52 AM
To: Jane DeMarchi
Subject: RE: Touching Base

Its going well, thanks! Busy, busy.

Hope all is well with you. I would like to find some time to meet in the near future if possible for your schedule.

-Jeff

From: Jane DeMarchi [mailto:jdemarchi@betterseed.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2017 9:42 AM
To: Sands, Jeffrey <sands.jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Touching Base

How is it going?

Jane DeMarchi
VP, Government and Regulatory Affairs
American Seed Trade Association
703-837-8140x[Ex. 6](office)
[Ex. 6](cell)

From: Sands, Jeffrey [mailto:sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2017 9:42 AM
To: Andy LaVigne; Jane DeMarchi; Virginia Houston
Subject: Touching Base

I hope this note finds you all doing well.

I wanted to be sure to pass along my contact information. Look forward to speaking with you in the near future.

Best,

Jeffrey Sands
Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Agriculture Policy
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
2415 WJC North
Washington, DC 20460
(202) 564-2263